



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Parliamentary Union Holds Emergency Meeting

Delegations Arrive 28 Dec

JN2812194092 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1700 GMT 28 Dec 92

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, will patronize tomorrow the emergency meeting of the Council of the Arab Parliamentary Union, the APU. The Sudanese and the Egyptian delegation were the first to arrive in Amman this morning. The Syrian delegation arrived later in the day.

In a statement, the head of the Egyptian parliamentary delegation called on the UN Security Council to execute its Resolution No. 799, which calls for the return of the expelled Palestinians to their homeland. He also called on the Arab parliaments to adopt a firm stand against the Israeli policies.

The speaker of the Syrian delegation underlined, in a statement upon arrival, the need for Arab solidarity in this stage to confront challenges.

Prince Hasan Addresses APU

JN2912131492 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the [Jordanian] regent, said today that the Israeli expulsion of Palestinians is a clear violation of human rights and international law, particularly the Geneva Convention, which bans individual and mass expulsions. In a speech delivered at the extraordinary meeting of the Arab Parliamentary Union, APU, which opened in Amman today, His Royal Highness said that the international community should take another step to implement international law in response to the Israeli Government's repetition of such expulsions, disregard for UN Security Council resolutions, and refusal to observe the Geneva conventions.

Crown Prince Hasan added that it is time to think of a mechanism to guarantee the protection of the civilian population in the occupied territories against the repetition of such practices. The crown prince asserted that the expulsion will directly affect the peace process and is a provocative act that will reduce the chances of establishing a just and comprehensive peace in the region on the basis of negotiations.

Addressing the opening session of the APU extraordinary session, held to discuss Israel's expulsion of Palestinians, Speaker of the lower house of the Parliament 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyyat thanked the Arab parliamentary delegations for responding to the invitation to attend the session. He said Israel's expulsion of the 415 Palestinians represents a total disregard of international law and conventions.

Speaker of the Syrian People's Assembly and President of the Arab Parliamentary Union 'Abd-al-Qadir Qadurah also addressed the opening session. He thanked Jordan for hosting the meeting, and said Israel's recent expulsion of Palestinians is an unprecedented measure and is in blatant defiance of international law and norms. He also called for a unified Arab position to foil such Israeli measures.

Several Arab delegates addressed the opening session on the excesses committed by Israel against the civilian population of the occupied territories. They called on the international community to act firmly to stop such violations of the UN Charter, the Geneva conventions, and international law.

APU Concludes Final Session

JN2912192692 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Report by parliamentary affairs correspondent Muhammad al-Tarawinah on the Arab Parliamentary Union's extraordinary session in Amman on 29 December—recorded]

[Text] Greetings from the parliament building, where the Arab Parliamentary Union [APU] concluded its final session a short while ago. The Arab parliamentarians debated and unanimously endorsed a final statement drawn up by the drafting committee. The statement expresses appreciation for the speech by Crown Prince Hasan, his highness the regent, analyzing the implications of Israel's mass expulsion of Palestinians, and his highness' appeal to Arab parliamentarians to approach and bring pressure to bear on the international community and international and UN agencies to promote the expellees' repatriation. The delegates argued that the Arab/Islamic community is capable of formulating a social convention to advance the human dignity of the Arab individual on his soil.

The final statement vigorously condemns the Israeli measure as an act of defiance against the will of the international community and a breach of human rights. The statement views UN Security Council Resolution 799 as an expression of the will of the international community and international law. It calls on Israeli authorities to immediately allow the expellees to return to their land and families.

The statement urges the UN secretary general to keep his envoy in the occupied Arab territories to oversee the expellees' repatriation. It urges all Arab leaders and governments to move past intra-Arab differences, reactivate and fortify Arab solidarity, and adopt unified positions on all issues.

The final statement of the Arab parliamentarians backs Lebanon's principled stance on the expellees issue, and lauds the valiant Palestinian intifadah.

APU Issues Final Statement

JN2012702492 Amman SAWT AL-USHA'B in Arabic 30 Dec 92 p 9

[Text] of final statement of the Arab Parliamentary Union's extraordinary session issued in Amman on 29 December]

[Text] The council of the Arab Parliamentary Union [APU], in its extraordinary session held in Amman, expresses its outright denunciation of the Israeli measure and considers it a new crime against the Palestinian people, defiance of the international community's will, flagrant violation of human rights and peoples' right to self-determination, and the Fourth Geneva Convention, particularly Paragraph A of Article 49, which prohibits the deportation of the population of territories under occupation outside their homeland, regardless of the motives and reasons.

The APU also considers Resolution 799, adopted unanimously by the Security Council, to be an expression of the will of the international community and international law through its condemnation of the deportation decision and its demand that the Israeli authorities immediately repatriate the Palestinian deportees to their homeland and families.

The APU considers the deportation of Palestinian citizens outside their homeland to be a clear contradiction of Israeli claims about its desire to proceed with the peace process and to implement the resolutions of the Security Council and UN General Assembly.

The APU stresses that in accordance with the Fourth Geneva Convention, the fate and safety of the deportees is the responsibility of the Israeli occupation authorities, who expelled them to Lebanese territory that is not controlled by the Lebanese Government.

The APU expresses its appreciation of and support for Lebanon—its people, parliament, and government—for its position of opposition to receiving the deportees in order to deprive Israel of the chance to escape the consequences of its hideous crime and to confront Israel's open policy of deporting the Palestinians and settling them outside their land.

The APU is convinced that reviving Arab solidarity and entrenching it, and overcoming Arab differences constitute the solid basis for any joint Arab action to confront this treacherous Israeli measure, and to ensure the return of the Palestinian deportees. This joint action is the only means to confront all dangers and challenges targeting the Arab nation in all Arab countries.

The APU hails the Palestinian Arab people's heroic intifadah, which crowns the decades of continuous struggle by the Palestinian people and is also the embodiment of their determination to reject the occupation and adhere to their inalienable national rights, foremost of which is their right to self-determination, return, and to set up an independent state on their national soil

under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative. The APU stresses the importance of unified Palestinian action on all levels and overcoming differences among all Palestinian factions and forces inside and outside the PLO.

The APU hails the steadfastness of our Arab people in southern Lebanon and the occupied Syrian Golan.

The APU:

1. Asks the Security Council to shoulder its responsibility, and to work to guarantee the implementation of Resolution 799 by working out a clear mechanism for implementation, and by setting a deadline for its implementation, within which the deportees should return to their homeland and families.

2. Calls on the UN Security Council to take the necessary measures included in Chapter 7 of the UN Charter to force Israel to implement Resolution 799 if it continues to refuse to implement this resolution.

3. Calls on the UN secretary general to instruct his envoy to remain in the occupied Arab territories to supervise the return of the deportees, escort them during their return, and guarantee their safety.

4. Calls on the Arab and Islamic governments to take the necessary measures to return the deportees in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 799, and not to respond to any attempt to reach compromise solutions away from the UN Security Council resolution, which was adopted unanimously.

5. Calls on the UN Security Council to take the necessary measures to protect the Palestinian people in the occupied territories from the daily oppressive and repressive measures of the occupation authorities, through placing these territories under international protection until the occupation forces are evacuated. It also calls on the states that signed the Geneva Convention to undertake efforts to hold a meeting for the General Assembly with the aim of working out the necessary mechanism to force Israel to apply this convention to the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories.

6. Denounces the daily Israeli repressive and oppressive measures against our Arab people in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, holy Jerusalem, southern Lebanon, and the occupied Syrian Golan Heights. It also hails the valiant nationalist resistance in these territories.

7. Calls on all the governments, organizations, and masses in the Arab homeland to extend moral and material aid to the valiant intifadah in occupied Palestine, especially since it constitutes a legitimate struggle against occupation. It urges all the Palestinian revolution's forces and factions to set aside their differences and unite ranks to escalate the intifadah, protect it, and guarantee its continuation.

8. Entrusts the APU chairmanship and general secretariat with contacting the regional and international

parliaments and parliamentary organizations to convey to them the APU's position on the deportation decision, and to urge them to pressure their governments to consequently pressure the UN Security Council to implement Resolution 799 guaranteeing the return of the Palestinian deportees to their homeland.

9. Calls on all Arab leaders and governments to bypass intra-Arab differences, reactivate and fortify Arab solidarity, and adopt unified positions on all issues. It also calls for an urgent meeting of the Arab foreign ministers to discuss the Arab situation, comprehensively assess this situation, diagnose dangers, and determine the means to confront them collectively. It also appeals to the Arab and international media to show interest in the deportees issue as being an important and just humanitarian issue.

10. Calls on all Arab leaders and governments to mobilize Arab resources and give the Arab masses a chance to express their support for the deportees' return.

11. Hails the extraordinary steadfastness of the deportees and their noble adherence to their cause. It believes that through this steadfastness, they have added a new heroic, eternal chapter to the record of the Palestinian national struggle.

Arab League To Hold Emergency Meeting 11 Jan
NC2912110292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1125 GMT 29
Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 29 Dec (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Imat 'Abd-al-Majid has said that it has initially been decided to hold an emergency meeting of the Arab foreign ministers on 11 January in response to Palestine's invitation. The meeting will discuss the issue of the Palestinian deportees, he added.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that this date is convenient for many Arab ministers. He said that he had met with the Algerian ambassador in Cairo, who requested that the meeting be held on 11 January.

In a statement to MENA, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that he had received a message from UN Secretary General Dr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali on the mission of UN envoy James Jonah to Israel concerning the Palestinian deportees. He said that he had previously urged Dr. Boutros-Ghali to send the UN envoy as soon as possible to discuss this issue. Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that contacts are continuing between the Arab League and the United Nations on this issue.

In his statement, the Arab League secretary general said he will leave for Addis Ababa on 2 January to take part in the meeting called by the United Nations to achieve national reconciliation between the Somali factions. He said that he will meet with the UN secretary general, the Organization of African Unity secretary general, and the Islamic Conference Organization secretary general. He

said that the Arab League will present its views concerning the Somali reconciliation during this meeting.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that the Arab League's stand was and still is in favor of holding the Somali reconciliation conference at the Arab League headquarters. He voiced the Arab League's readiness to hold this conference at any time if all the Somali parties wish to do so.

Egypt, Maghreb Reportedly 'Warn' Iran, Sudan
FM2412111292 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in
Arabic 23 Dec 92 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Egyptian Information About 33 Extremists' Departure From Sudan to Iraq"]

[Excerpt] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—A prominent Egyptian security official has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that his security organs have corroborated information that a number of extremists who are currently being trained in Sudanese camps intend to leave Sudanese territory and head for Iraq to settle there.

The official attributed this step to the tightening of the noose around Sudan, which fears its inclusion among the states supporting terrorism.

The official said that his security organs prepared a list of 33 members and leaders of extremist organizations who received their training in Sudan and fled following their participation in operations carried out over the past six months.

Well-informed sources have said that Egypt and the Arab Maghreb states have warned the Khartoum and Tehran governments in connection with their intention to set up a new radio station to transmit programs from Sudan in cooperation with Islamic groups in Egypt, Tunisia, and Algeria.

The sources said that the Egyptian-Maghreb warnings were conveyed to the Sudanese Foreign Ministry, which was warned about the Iranian regime's attempts to use Sudan as a crossing point to threaten neighboring and Maghreb states through special programs transmitted by a radio station called "Voice of the Islamic Revolution."

The sources also indicated that an Egyptian warning against embarking on this step was conveyed to Tehran during the talks which Syrian Foreign Faruq al-Shar' held in Cairo recently, within the framework of the Syrian mediation between Cairo and Tehran. The sources said that an agreement has been reached among the three states to join the transmission of that radio to prevent it from reaching any of them. (passage omitted)

Palestinian Affairs**'Arafat Meets UN Chief, French Foreign Minister**

LD9012122192 Bern Swiss Radio International in English 1100 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] The leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization has met the United Nations secretary general in Geneva to discuss the plight of more than 400 Palestinians deported by Israel. Officials say Yasser 'Arafat and Boutros Boutros-Ghali discussed ways of resolving the political battle over the deportees, who are stranded in no-man's-land in southern Lebanon. 'Arafat is also meeting the French foreign minister, Roland Dumas. Meanwhile, the International Committee of the Red Cross has strongly condemned Israel for not allowing the passage of humanitarian aid to the refugees. In Israel, the prime minister, Yitzhak Rabin, said that Israel would not change its stance but would allow 10 Palestinians who were deported in error to return home.

French Position Welcomed

JN2912193192 Saman Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Text] Welcoming the stand taken by France and the statements made by its foreign minister, an official PLO source has made the following statement:

The PLO has received with appreciation and satisfaction the statements made by French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas in which he stressed the need for Israel's respect of and compliance with the UN Security Council resolution [799] and providing urgent aid to the Palestinian deportees where they currently are located. The PLO hopes that friendly countries and permanent member states of the UN Security Council will adopt a similar position to ensure immediate implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions and guarantee the deportees' return to their country.

On 23 December, president Yasser 'Arafat sent a message concerning the deportees to French President Francois Mitterrand, which was conveyed to Paris by PLO Executive Committee Member Yasser 'Abd-Rabbuh. The message expressed confidence that France will play its correct role out of its respect for international law and legitimacy, and out of its concern for protecting the Palestinian people's rights by acting to ensure their return.

The French ambassador in Tunis has since conveyed a reply message to the Palestinian leadership. The message stresses that France will do its best to tackle all aspects of this problem, both political and humanitarian.

Reportage: Hamas-PLO Joint Action, Rapprochement**Hamas Spokesman Cited**

PM3012093092 London AL-SHARQ AL-AW'AT in Arabic 27 Dec 92 pp 1, 4

[Muhammad] 'Ali al-Qulaybi report: "PLO Objects to Armed Struggle Condition"]

[Text] Tunis, Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Hamas (Islamic Resistance Movement) sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the PLO leadership has expressed its willingness to meet the movement's demands concerning participation in PLO institutions. They pointed out that the Palestinian leadership agreed in principle but without going into the details of these demands, which relate, for example, to the proportion demanded by Hamas with regard to its representation in PLO institutions, which total 40 percent.

Hamas sources considered the Palestinian leadership's willingness in that direction a positive indication of the possibility of restoring cohesion to Palestinian ranks and a fruitful step toward consolidating Palestinian unity in the face of the Israeli enemy's schemes. They pointed out that the details are expected to be discussed at the meeting scheduled to be held between Fatah and Hamas in the Sudanese capital next month.

Muhammad Nazzari, official spokesman for Hamas, has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the movement submitted to the Palestinian leadership a memorandum which includes the basic outlines for a joint action program. They are as follows:

First, to support the deportees' decision to stay put in the "return camp" until their return to their territory, homeland and people, no matter how much this costs. And to close the door to any attempt by any quarter to transfer them from their camp to any area, except in the direction of occupied Palestine.

Second, to withdraw completely and immediately from the negotiations and join the Palestinian, Arab, and Islamic masses, on the grounds that they are the backbone in the showdown battle.

Third, to escalate and develop the intifadah; to agree on a joint jihad program for the influential intifadah elements to safeguard its thrust and masses; and to deem it the people's irrevocable choice.

Fourth, to adopt armed struggle as a strategic option to confront the coercive occupation.

Fifth, to call for a comprehensive national dialogue for all Palestinian forces based on the aforementioned demands in order to reinforce national unity, end the state of disunity on the Palestinian scene which the negotiations have aggravated, and rebuild the PLO on new foundations that guarantee its representation of all the Palestinian people's influential groups and forces.

Hamas' memorandum, Nazzari said, was not discussed in depth or seriously at the Tunis meetings. This is why Hamas does not expect radical results. In this connection he pointed out that the deportees issue was almost the only issue agreed upon, whereas the mere mention of the armed struggle issue met with opposition from some Palestinian leaders.

On the dialogue between Fatah and Hamas, Muhammad Nazzari expressed his hope that the next meeting—which is scheduled to be held in Khartoum at the beginning of January through the mediation of Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, secretary general of the Islamic People's Congress in Sudan—would produce positive results to resolve existing problems between the two movements.

Asked about Hamas' position on Abu-'Ali Shahin's participation in the Khartoum meeting as part of the Fatah delegation, Nazzari said that Hamas' position is clear and was conveyed to the Fatah leadership: It rejects Abu-'Ali Shahin's participation in the meetings, because he is directly responsible for Dr. Isma'il al-Khatib's assassination and for recent incidents in the Gaza Strip, as he issued his orders to Fatah grass roots there to initiate the confrontation against Hamas elements, and he was behind supplying the Fatah leadership with incorrect reports which contributed to worsening the atmosphere and the bloody confrontations.

Sources close to the Hamas delegation to the meetings with the PLO leadership have revealed that the session held the day before yesterday was a stormy one and included sharp arguments between Yasir 'Arafat and Dr. Musa Abu-Marras, head of the Hamas delegation to these meetings.

The sources added that the arguments centered on what was reported about the Netherlands' and Norway's willingness to receive the Palestinian deportees, as the Hamas delegation accused the PLO leadership of being behind such international efforts, which are contrary to what Hamas is proposing regarding the deportees issue.

'Arafat strongly rejected the delegation's accusations, emphasizing that a proposal had been submitted to the PLO leadership as a compromise for the deportees issue.

But the PLO rejected the proposal, and the fact of the matter is that it was the various media services which promoted such reports and Hamas based its position on news agencies' reports in this connection.

The Netherlands Foreign Ministry issued a statement later yesterday in which it denied offering anything of this kind to the quarters concerned. The Norwegian Foreign Ministry also denied it.

At another level, Hamas yesterday issued a statement in which it clarified its position on statements attributed to Yasir 'Arafat by the media in which he said that "Israeli authorities should arrest and execute the killer of the Israeli soldier Neim Tulidano, not resort to mass deportation."

He also said "we are in agreement with the Hamas leadership in this connection, because [murder] conflicts with Islam."

In its statement Hamas pointed out that the Israeli soldier's assassination is a legitimate jihad action against the military occupation.

It also said that the operation met with the approval, support, and blessing of the brothers in the Palestinian leadership, including 'Arafat himself.

It also added that what the media referred to, namely that there is agreement between 'Arafat and Hamas on condemning the operation and demanding the arrest and execution of the culprits, is absolutely untrue.

Sources Note 'Rapprochement'

NC2912360892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1433 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 29 Dec (MENA)—Palestinian sources in Cairo have affirmed that the recent meeting in Tunis between the PLO and representatives of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, did not change the stands of either side on the peace process in the Middle East. These sources explained to MENA that Hamas' representatives stressed during the meeting their continued rejection of Palestinian participation in the peace negotiations and the need to withdraw from the talks. The PLO stressed that participation in the peace talks is one of the forms of struggle to enable the Palestinian people to obtain their legitimate rights, primarily the right to self-determination.

These sources said that both sides agreed on backing the Palestinian intifadah, resisting the Israeli occupation, acting to return the deportees to their homes, and offering all possible assistance to the Palestinian people to bolster their steadfastness under the occupation. They said the PLO and Hamas agreed to hold another meeting in Khartoum at a date to be set to complete discussion on topics on which no agreement has been reached. These sources noted that issue surrounding the Palestinian deportees, who belong to Hamas, created a rapprochement between the PLO and Hamas, which usually takes stands opposed to the PLO inside the occupied territories.

Committee To Pursue Deportee Case

TA2912151392 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 29 Dec 92 pp 1, 7

[Text] Tunis—Quds Press—Yasir 'Abd-Rabbih, head of the PLO Information Department, has said that agreement has been reached between the PLO leadership and the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] delegation to the Tunis meetings on setting up a higher committee to pursue the case of the deportees. The committee will have branches in the occupied territories and in Palestinian forums to follow the political and popular campaign in defense of the right of the deportees to return

immediately to their homeland. In a statement to Quds Press, 'Abd-Rabbuh added that the Palestinian leadership has organized direct and permanent contact with the body responsible for the deportees inside their camp to provide it with complete information about developments on the deportation issue and in the political sphere, and also to follow the deportees' medical and living conditions and to acquaint international public opinion with it.

'Abd-Rabbuh once again held Rabin's government responsible for assassinating the peace process, pointing out that the deportees' return might ensure the resumption of the bilateral talks.

'Abd-Rabbuh noted that the participation of Hamas representatives in the meetings of the Palestinian leadership is a positive development that illustrates the broad realization that the PLO is the national framework for all Palestinian forces regardless of their political theories and positions. 'Abd-Rabbuh said that the meetings achieved important results represented in continuing the dialogue and engaging in joint action in various fields.

'Abd-Rabbuh added that the PLO will be eager to invite Hamas and have it participate in all the joint bodies within which other Palestinian forces act.

Qaddumi on Continuing Intifadah, Peace Process

FM/012094092 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Dec 92 p3

[Unattributed interview with Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department, in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] [AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] How do you view the Israeli Government's deportation of 413 Palestinians from the occupied territory?

[Qaddumi] That decision confirmed what we had been saying all along, namely that Rabin is no better than his predecessor Shamir. There has been no change whatsoever in the policy of the Israeli Government which insists on keeping the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories and refuses to withdraw from them.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What effect has the Israeli Government's decision had on the PLO's peace policy?

[Qaddumi] We will continue to favor peace as approved by the United Nations and as envisaged in the letter of invitation to the peace conference. Our immediate reaction to the Israeli deportation decision was escalation of the *intifadah* and the resistance.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Does that mean that the PLO has decided to go back to armed struggle?

[Qaddumi] We never gave up the armed struggle for a moment. The *intifadah* is continuing. We have not stopped it, and the Palestinian revolution is still raging.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Do you think that Rabin is capable of quelling the *intifadah*, as he claims?

[Qaddumi] Shamir claimed that he could and failed. Rabin has tried scores of ways to put down the popular uprising in the occupied territory, and he also has failed.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Why is the PLO seeking a resumption of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue?

[Qaddumi] We are not in any way concerned about resumption of the dialogue with the United States. That dialogue was feeble and it achieved no results, and it did not cover any important or fundamental issues.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] How do you explain the Palestinian fear of separate peace agreements between Israel and the other Arab parties?

[Qaddumi] First of all, I rule out the possibility of any separate Syrian-Israeli or Jordanian-Israeli agreements. Everyone is committed to the idea of a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East conflict and restoration of Palestinian rights. Therefore, we have no such alleged fear.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] How do you assess the results of the marathon bilateral negotiations?

[Qaddumi] I can say that the end result of the eight rounds is still zero. So far we have seen no change in the Israeli position since the beginning of the negotiations. The only change in the Israeli negotiators' attitude under Rabin is in the tactics. The negotiations are still stumbling because of the continuous Israeli procrastination.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Do you agree with those who want to marginalize the PLO's role in the peace process?

[Qaddumi] All the parties to the Middle East peace process fully realize that the PLO is leading the negotiations with Israel despite the fact that no PLO members are in the negotiating delegation.

Paper on Reports of Possible Syrian-Israeli Deal

TA2912204092 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 27 Dec 92 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Is Syria Seeking a Separate Solution?"]

[Excerpt] Israeli newspapers reported two days ago that Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam informed three Democratic U.S. senators who visited Syria last week that Syria and Israel have reached a point whereby they can achieve a comprehensive solution and mutual security guarantees for all the parties. Those newspapers added that Khaddam stressed that Syria does not make progress in the talks with Israel conditional on agreements with other Arab parties. According to the newspapers, the senators also said that during their meeting with Khaddam and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar, the latter strived to convince them of Syria's total desire for peace.

This conforms with many statements by Arab and Palestinian officials to the effect that Syria is on the verge of announcing that agreement has been reached on the agenda and on the general principles for achieving a Syrian-Israeli settlement. The guidelines on which Syria is insisting are summed up in Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights in return for a peace treaty, exchange of ambassadors, normalization, and the opening of borders between the two countries. This agreement will also apply to Lebanon and the Syrian Army will safeguard Israel's northern frontier whether with Syria or with Lebanon.

Observers are interpreting the escalation of violence and the Israeli Government's iron fist strike against Palestinians, especially fundamentalists, as a policy that has enabled this government to gain immense popularity in different strata of society. This will enable the government to make concessions on other fronts, particularly to Syria. If this scenario is true and Syria and Israel do end their conflict, the problem between Jordan and Israel as well as between Lebanon and Israel will become marginal. It is an axiom of the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict that if the dispute with Egypt and Syria were to end by peaceful means, any pan-Arab dimension of the conflict will also come to an end and the Palestinians will be isolated and left alone to end their differences with Israel. Thus the Palestinians will find themselves confronting Israel without either possessing many cards or feeling that the negotiations will be on an equal basis or balanced.

If it is difficult to believe that Syria might take such steps toward a separate agreement with Israel and repeat what Egypt did 25 years ago, we remind that we are living in a strange age. Who would have believed that Syria would ally itself with Western forces that sought to destroy Iraq? The entire Palestinian and Arab street is displaying a sense of apprehension toward the possible disintegration of the remaining coordination and solidarity among the Arab countries negotiating with the Jewish state. Syria's separation in this way will represent a new blow to Arab struggle in general and Palestinian struggle in particular. [passage omitted]

Call for Sha'ah To Join Palestinian Delegation

TA2712111892 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Dec 92 p A1

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Gay Bekhor]

[Excerpt] "There is no choice but to change the Madrid formula and permit Dr. Nabil Sha'ah to become a member of the Palestinian delegation," Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, who returned from talks with PLO leader Yasser 'Arafat in Cairo last week, said.

In an interview with HA'ARETZ, al-Tibi said that the PLO has decided that Dr. Sha'ah is the right person to belong to the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks because he is the PLO's coordinator with the delegation

members from the territories and due to his pragmatic positions on the issues linked to the political process being conducted lately.

According to Dr. al-Tibi, the level of the Palestinian delegation should be raised because "at the moment, the delegation does not respond properly to the Palestinian demands. It has also been shown that the present composition does not contribute to the negotiations."

"Coupling Dr. Sha'ah and an East Jerusalem representative, as well as the return of the Palestinian deportees, will be a significant contribution to the peace process," al-Tibi added.

According to senior PLO sources, the issue of representation should be raised even before the talks are resumed in Washington should the Palestinians decide to return to the negotiating table. [passage omitted]

Editorial Urges 'Remaking' Madrid Formula

TA2712171192 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 28 Dec 92 p 4

[Editorial: "Remaking the Madrid Formula"]

[Text] A meeting of the Arab Foreign Ministers held in Cairo and partially attended by President Yasser 'Arafat did not resolve the burning problem of the expulsions of 415 Palestinians by Israel, nor the resumption of the peace process following the transition from the Bush to the Clinton administration.

Inferring from the statements of 'Arafat to chief negotiator Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, it is clear that resuming these expelled to their homes is essential to keep the Madrid process alive. The Israeli High Court, for the second time, failed to correct Rabin's grave political error: by refusing to allow the Palestinians to return on humanitarian grounds. Now it is left to the co-sponsors to deal seriously with this issue or else leave the peace process to come apart.

In the meantime, during the period of American transition and the efforts to rescind the expulsion orders, serious work should be done on several fronts.

The Clinton administration must understand that after 13 months of negotiations not only have deadlines been neglected, but the American role—as outlined by the letter of assurances of Oct. 18, 1991, as "an honest broker"—and its intention "to play the role of a driving force" in this process have been utterly lacking. This is one of the main reasons that progress has been limited and deadlines have been missed. The Clinton administration and Secretary of State nominee Warren Christopher must live up to the letter of American assurances.

The role of the Russian co-sponsor must also be articulated within the role of Europe. Russia, with its internal problems, cannot be the counterpart to the co-sponsor, the United States. The European Community's role should be raised to be on par with the proposed role of

Russia. Furthermore, the E.C. role should not only be in the economic realm, but should be equivalent to the diplomatic role that Russia was supposed to play and equal to the role of the United States.

The policy being implemented by the Rabin government in the occupied territories—with expulsions, curfews, collective punishments, killings, and other gross violations of human rights—immediately raises the question of the need for international protection for the Palestinian people. A third party must separate the adversaries until the conclusion of the negotiating process.

While not tampering with the basic Madrid model of two stages to include an interim transitional period, it is important to make Israel aware that the time lost should be accounted for and deducted from the five-year transitional period and all future deadlines should be adhered to and respected.

The Clinton administration should also be aware that the Palestinian delegation must include Palestinians in exile and from Jerusalem and that the normalization of relations and resumption of dialogue with the PLO is essential to peace in the region.

Finally, the Israeli public must understand that peace can only take place when their government officials can sit and negotiate directly with the PLO. Efforts toward this goal should intensify in 1993.

Editorial Warns Against Withdrawal From Talks

TA2912165392 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 28
Dec 92 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Proceeding in the Negotiations"]

[Text] Some voices in the Palestinian arena are loudly calling for withdrawal from the peace talks with Israel. This demand is a grave if not a fatal mistake. Negotiations are a political war which we should not abandon nor withdraw from. Withdrawal means defeat. At the same time it is not a sound and effective response to the Israeli deportation decision.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin thinks with the mentality of a "general." When he adopted the deportation decision, one of his aims was that the Palestinian side would quickly pull out from the talks. This step of and by itself is one of his aspirations. He is striving to achieve stability and sign peace agreements with Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan and is stating publicly that the Palestinians do not want peace. In this way his maneuver will succeed and he will manage to evade international pressure to resolve the Palestinian problem, the core of the conflict. Rabin, who is now over 70 years old, does not want to deal with this problem during his era.

The success of Rabin's maneuver means that the Arab world and the international community will be transformed into the foes of the Palestinian people. At that

time, a new map will be drawn up and a solution will be devised without our participation.

Beware of withdrawing from the negotiations.

Armed Struggle Talk 'for Local Consumption Only'

TA2912172992 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 28 Dec
92 pp 1, 9

["News Analysis" by Khalid Abu-Akir: "Peace Delegation Talks About 'Armed Struggle'"]

[Text] The current political situation in the occupied territories—a result of Israeli measures such as mass expulsion—has led members of the Palestinian peace delegation to talk about options to the peace process, such as armed struggle.

The peace delegates found themselves in an uncomfortable position after the Israeli prime minister's decision to expel 415 Palestinians from their homeland.

This decision was the straw that broke the camel's back for the majority of the Palestinian people. The expulsion decision was convincing evidence for the Palestinians of the absence of Israeli goodwill toward the peace talks.

What's happening on the ground to weaken the peace initiative was compounded by what's happening in the peace talks. After one year of negotiating, the Palestinians have come to believe that Israel is simply not serious about reaching peace with the Palestinians. This can be discerned from the proposals it submits to the delegation, which call for dividing the occupied territories into three parts: Israeli controlled, Palestinian semi-controlled, and jointly controlled.

One source in the delegation went so far as to say that "We prefer to continue living under occupation than accepting such proposals."

The lack of progress in the peace talks has become a heavy burden on the shoulders of the delegation, with too many voices calling for withdrawal. The expulsion came as an excellent opportunity for them to dish out strong statements to appease the public.

At a press conference held Dec. 23, Faysal al-Husayni, head of the peace team, talked about armed struggle as an alternative in the event the peace process proves incapable of achieving Palestinian goals. "There are many other options: political, diplomatic and armed struggle," he said.

Spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi went further, saying that the "PLO chose negotiations in this phase as a means of conflict resolution; it doesn't mean that it has dropped its right to resort to armed struggle."

This discourse can best be described as "for local consumption only."

Talk about armed struggle by people like al-Husayni and 'Ashrawi—who rose to power only in the age of political struggle—is meant to appease their constituency, which has lost interest in the peace talks and come to believe that these talks are a waste of time.

Their comments were not intended to be taken as threats to the Israelis or any other foreign party that the Palestinians will revert to armed struggle. None of them tried to say that the Palestinians are not committed to the peace process.

When asked about future participation in the peace talks, al-Husayni said that the decision rests with the PLO only. "This is the decision of the leadership and not the delegation," he said. He added that the decision "will be due to the circumstances, due to the Israeli and international positions."

His reply indicates that the delegation is not willing to take the heat from the Palestinians in the occupied territories for any decision on further participation.

The very mention of "peace talks" with Israel at the moment has become a very embarrassing matter, at a time when the people are looking for a reaction, even an overreaction, in the face of continued Israeli escalation.

The delegation has found that, if it can't say anything good about the peace negotiations to their people, they might as well say nothing about them for the time being. According to sources close to the delegation, the delegates have deduced that the best time to resume talk about participation will not be for a few weeks.

For now, however, the mass expulsion will top the Palestinian political agenda, with the hope of resolving the issue to the satisfaction of the public. By having the 415 expelled Palestinians return to their homes, the delegation will have achieved a political victory. Its credibility and regard will have been recaptured.

UN Envoy Criticized for Silence

TA2912182892 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic
29 Dec 92 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "A Silent Envoy?"]

[Text] Other than broad smiles to his Israeli hosts with whom he met two days ago to discuss the issue of the deportees, we have not heard any statements by UN envoy James Jonah either to the Israeli or Palestinian side. He met yesterday in Jerusalem with 10 Palestinian figures and attended a solidarity festival in al-Birah. We have not heard any statements that reflect the weight of the great mission assigned to him by the UN secretary general and which requires action to implement UN Resolution 799 that calls for the immediate and safe return of the deportees to their homeland.

"According to the Israeli press," during his meeting with Israeli officials the UN envoy did not demand the return of the deportees nor did he mention or make any hint of Resolution 799. All that he shyly asked from Israeli officials was to ensure the entry of humanitarian aid to the deportees. Israel yesterday not only turned down this request but also refused to permit him personally to go to the deportees' camp through Israeli-controlled territory. We did not hear from "the silent envoy" any complaint or protest against this Israeli stance, which contravenes international law.

In light of all this, one has to question the benefit of the visit and its results and ask whether Jonah is on a pleasure trip or a mission to implement UN resolutions?

Moreover, one has to question this international condescension in dealing with the issue of the deportees while witnessing an intense fervor in dealing with Iraq and downing one of its aircraft two days ago under the pretext of violating the UN sanction resolutions.

If Jonah's trip is an attempt to evade rebuke, it will now increase popular censure of and anger against the United Nations and its negative performance—to the extent of collusion—in dealing with Israeli positions that refuse to respond in any way to the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Algeria

Demolition of 'Unofficial' Mosques Ordered

LD2412152792 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 0600 GMT 24 Dec 92

[Text] The minister of religious affairs has announced that unofficial places of worship will be demolished and that any new mosque must obtain the green light from the religious authorities. Sassi Lamouri considers that the state has been able to put an end to sedition in mosques which have been turned into a platform for propaganda by extremists.

[Algiers APS in English at 1137 GMT on 24 December in an Algiers-dated report notes: "The action led with a great firmness by the state to protect the mosque from political turbulences and to put it out of any party propaganda, seems to have had the expected effect, considering the declaration on Tuesday to the APS, of the religious affairs minister, Sassi Lamouri. 'Prayer is taking place in calm in 99 per cent of mosques of the country', the religious affairs minister declared in this regard."]

Military Court Trial of 79 Officers Opens 27 Dec

LD2712141492 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Dec 92

[Text] [Announcer] The trial of 79 military officers accused of conspiracy against state security, which was due to be held on 17 December 1992, was postponed for lack of evidence. Here is our correspondent, Mohamed Mokhtari, in Bechar with the details.

[Mokhtari] At precisely 0945 [0845 GMT] today, Sunday [27 December], the trial of 79 military officers, accused of undermining state security, began at the military court in Bechar.

According to an authorized source at court this morning, the trial opened under favorable conditions, with the presence of all the accused and their defense in a closed session. Pressmen attended before the session began.

To recap, this is the second court hearing following the first one that was held on Wednesday 23 December [as heard], which had been postponed due to contempt of court by the accused.

We would also point out that of the 79 defendants, 17—eight civilians and nine military men—are still on the run and will be tried in absentia. Mohamed Mokhtari, Bechar. Goodbye.

[Announcer] Our colleague, Mohamed Mokhtari, said that the first hearing was on Wednesday 23 December, but the correct date was Sunday 20 December.

Trial Continues; Charges Listed

LD2812133292 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Dec 92

[Excerpts] The trial of the 79 military before the Military Court at Bechar enters its second day today, having continued yesterday until a late hour in the night. For further details, here is Mohamed Mokhtari from Bechar.

[Mokhtari] [Passage omitted] The decision to hold the trial in camera was made at the request of the public prosecutor, who affirmed to us this morning that the trial of the accused is taking place in accordance with the provisions of the Penal Code, the General Law, pertinent to the charges levelled against the defendants which are:

The offer to hatch a plot which was turned down, the distribution of leaflets among the masses harmful to the national interest, the formation of an armed gang, failure to report crimes detrimental to the national interest, and the undertaking of missions pertaining to an armed gang. The trial is still in progress. We will provide you with any new details in our future bulletins.

Kafi Speaks at Council of Magistrates Installation

LD2712124092 Algiers APS in English 1020 GMT 27 Dec 92

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Algiers, Dec 27 (APS)—The president of the Higher State Committee, Ali Kafi, made Saturday here a speech on the occasion of the installation of the new higher Council of Magistrature to the members of whom he underlined that "your action falls in the frame of the strategy of the country, set up by the glorious revolution of November and whose bases were set by the national liberation movement, a strategy which consists in edifying a modern, strong united and homogenous state capable of resisting to all sorts of shocks both from inside and outside, a state capable of consolidating its position and its prestige in its geopolitical environment and its international environment in general.

In our own vision and in the concept of the national liberation movement, he added, the state has neither been reduced to mere apparatus or to material considerations, nor to a security force or a [word indistinct] between two antagonist parties, it is rather the symbol of the embodiment of national sovereignty and unity, the symbol of patriotic, civilizational and humanitarian values, he added.

In this option, the president of the Higher State Committee said, the state must be embodied in institutions of a modern and advanced state that is oriented towards progress, social justice and the reinforcement of national personality.

This concept, he went on, is at the opposite of the abuse of power, the attempt against human dignity and bureaucracy. The state is a series of modern instruments and

institutions for the coherent taking in charge of society and at the same time a series of values and principles which are the foundations of society and create the history of the nation.

Our people have resolutely militated by sacrificing its various [word indistinct] and its best children to chase colonialism and restore and edify an Algerian state capable to answer the requirements of our people and the mutations of our time, he said.

We consider, he underlined, that justice constitutes the foundations of this state either for the implementation of law or for social justice. This state, we continued, is today the target of an action of destruction and sabotage waged by anti-national terrorist hands under a doubtful politico-religious cover at the service of foreign interests contrary to society and the supreme interests of the nation.

This action of sabotage, Ali Kafi further said, falls in the frame of a global plan aimed at destroying the realizations of the national liberation movement and at deviating the glorious revolution of November from its objectives.

The security forces, from the national popular army, the police forces and the gendarmerie forces fight with determination, dignity and bravery this plan of destruction and aggression—at the price of a number of martyrs before whom we bow—to defend the dignity of the nation, the foundations of the Algerian state and preserve the national, civilization values of our people, he added.

The signs of this plan of destruction have become perceptible by everyone and all citizens. It is a plan that is aimed not only at the state institutions but also at the very foundations of the nation.

It is high time the patriotic forces be [word indistinct] political parties, associations or institutions to assume their responsibilities with determination in front of this situation and get out of their expectative attitude, he said.

The president of the Higher State Committee underlined the role of justice and said that "law is [word indistinct] everyone." But he said that law has no meaning if there is no force to protect it.

The Algerian state, he told the members of the higher Council of Magistrature, which is facing a grave plot, terrorism and internal and external forces, is strong enough to fight the danger and accomplish its duties to protect the nation, the public and private goods. But while accomplishing its duty, the state attracts the attention of society on the gravity of negative positions in front of the events that are threatening the stability and the future of their country.

In conclusion, Kafi said that we are confident in the maturity and clearheadedness of our people and their capacity to face up the difficult events.

Members of FIS 'Terrorist Gang' Arrested

LD2812172592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic
1600 GMT 28 Dec 92

[Text] The security authorities of Bouira province have recently succeeded in arresting members of a terrorist group on a charge of possessing inflammatory leaflets and preparing to carry out acts of sabotage. For further details, here is a report from Abdelkarim Benmouafak:

[Benmouafak] The group consisted of six people belonging to the dissolved Islamic Salvation Front, according to the provincial security authorities. These people had varying cultural and scientific standards and were carrying out their activities in a clandestine and complex way.

The same source added that during the investigations, the security authorities discovered that the group was working for the establishment of an organization to be an extension for the armed Islamic movement. The security authorities, according to the same source, have found in their possession inflammatory documents and evidence of preparations for carrying out acts of sabotage.

The group members' contacts with each other and the group's activities were all conducted in a scientific and precise manner, according to the provincial security authorities.

The arrest of members of the group was the result of a tip from a secondary school teacher, who contacted the province's security authorities and informed them about the group. According to the security authorities, the teacher received two threats from the group because he refused to join it.

The head of the group is an unemployed person who frequently travels abroad. He was arrested together with four other elements, according to the province's security authorities, while the sixth is still at large. A court ordered their remand in protective custody on charges of possessing inflammatory leaflets and preparing to carry out acts of sabotage.

Egypt

Musa Discusses Deportation With Envoy to Israel

NC2912161692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1455 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 29 Dec (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today met with Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni, who is now in Cairo.

Basyuni said after the meeting that the foreign minister summoned him for consultations on Israel's position toward the deportees and the results of the eighth round of peace talks. He said he presented a report on Israel's views on these two points.

The Egyptian ambassador said he conveyed to the Israeli Government Egypt's denunciation of the Palestinians' deportation and its belief that this problem must be solved.

In his statement, Ambassador Basyuni stressed the need for Israel to offer formulas acceptable to the Palestinians to advance the peace process and thereby encourage the moderates instead of increasing the cycle of violence.

What matters, he said, is removing the causes of violence, and this can only be achieved by pushing the peace process forward and finding a solution to the Palestine question. He said it is necessary not to allow the extremists to realize their objectives.

Basyuni said the Israeli Government is willing to achieve peace on the basis of the following three factors: territory, peace, and security for all.

He said these factors are on the negotiating table, and without addressing them, the Arab-Israeli conflict cannot be resolved.

He said Israel acknowledged this fact, and therefore there is hope for a solution to the Palestine question.

Ambassador Basyuni stressed that Egypt is trying to solve the problem of the Palestinian deportees not only as a humanitarian issue, but as a problem that needs a drastic solution through the achievement of peace.

First Group of Troops Leaves for Somalia

NC2912144292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1403 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 29 Dec (MENA)—The first group of Egyptian troops working within the international peace-keeping forces in Somalia left the homeland today. This is part of Egypt's peace strategy and comes in implementation of the Security Council resolution providing for the safe arrival of humanitarian relief aid to the Somali people.

On 22 December, President Hosni Mubarak, supreme commander of the Armed Forces, inspected members of the Egyptian force and reassured himself about their readiness for the task.

The Egyptian unit was seen off today by Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Salah Halabi and a number of senior commanders.

Addressing the force, the chief of staff said that the Armed Forces are fully confident that the force will represent the Egyptian military in the best way while performing this humanitarian mission, which involves Arab brothers.

Lt. Gen. Halabi asked members of the force to perform their tasks in the tactical military method and in a manner that suits the operational theater in Somalia.

Assistant Foreign Minister Returns From Eritrea

NC2712192292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1711 GMT 27 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 27 Dec (MENA)—Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador Ibrahim 'Awf returned to Cairo this evening from Asmara after a four-day visit to Eritrea, during which he handed a message from Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa to Eritrean Foreign Minister Muhamed Sharif [name and title as received].

Ambassador 'Awf said he met with the Ethiopian [as received] ministers of defense, information, interior, and economic cooperation and discussed with them bilateral relations between the two countries and ways to boost them. He also discussed Egypt's support for Eritrea's independence and helping it during the referendum period set for next April.

He said they discussed issues concerning the Horn of Africa, particularly the situation in Somalia and how to cooperate with the United Nations to reach an agreement between the warring Somali factions.

Parliamentary Delegation Leaves for Meeting in Amman

NC2812090192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0845 GMT 28 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 28 Dec (MENA)—An Egyptian parliamentary delegation led by Kamal al-Shadhili, assistant secretary general of the National Democratic Party, left Cairo for Amman today to participate in the emergency meeting of the Arab Parliamentary Union, which will open 29 December to discuss the Palestinian deportees issue.

The delegation includes Dr. Tufbah 'Uwaydah, chairman of the People's Assembly's Arab relations committee, and Deputies Taha Salih and Ishaq Sha'ban.

Al-Jihad Leader Said Offered Residence in Iran

PM2412104992 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAAT in Arabic 23 Dec 92 pp 1, 4

[Amir Tahiri report: "Iran Invites 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman To Reside in Tehran Instead of New York"]

[Excerpts] London—Iranian sources yesterday revealed that Iran has sent an invitation to Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, mufti of the Egyptian al-Jihad organization, to visit Tehran and reside in it "until his return to Egypt."

Mahdi Ha'eri, representative of the "Oppressed Establishment" [mumazzamat al-mustad'afin], submitted the invitation to Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman during his visit to New York early in the month. 'Abd-al-Rahman is living in Brooklyn, New York, on a temporary residence permit that will end next month. [passage omitted]

U.S. sources say that a number of Iranians—including diplomats, businessmen, and individuals suspected of having links with Iranian security establishments—have visited 'Abd-al-Rahman. Among the most prominent of the visitors is Mohammad Larijani, member of the Iranian mission to the United Nations.

It seems that 'Abd-al-Rahman turned down an invitation to meet with Kamal Kharrazi, Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations. But his senior aides held talks with Kharrazi twice.

Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman's aides deny that cassettes recorded by the shaykh are financed by the Oppressed Establishment in Tehran.

'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman has been receiving great attention from state-owned Iranian media services. They present him as "really following Khomeyni's path" and praise his opposition to the Egyptian Government. [passage omitted]

Government To Stop Campaign Against Iran, Sudan

NC3012083592 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 26 Dec 92
p 1, 2

[Report by 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar]

[Text] Egypt has decided to stop its media campaign against Sudan and Iran to give efforts to improve relations between Cairo and Tehran and Cairo and Khartoum a new chance for success. Informed diplomatic sources have affirmed that Syria has asked Egypt to stop the continuous campaign of criticism of Iranian policy to prepare the appropriate atmosphere to resolve the existing conflicts between the two countries. The sources said that Egypt has approved the Syrian request to prove its good intentions toward Iran. The Egyptian Foreign Ministry is currently studying the appointment of a new head of the section for Egyptian affairs in Iran to a successor to Ambassador Ahmad Namag, whose term in Tehran ended two months ago. A responsible source at the Sudanese Embassy in Cairo has expressed his country's satisfaction with the halt in the media campaign against Khartoum. The source affirmed that the current Egyptian policy toward Sudan is preparing the appropriate atmosphere for resolving any emergency conflicts between the two countries in a cordial and fraternal atmosphere. The source said that the joint Egyptian-Sudanese committee will discuss at its meeting in Khartoum at the beginning of next month specific proposals from the two sides to resolve the issue of the Hala'ib border triangle.

Yemeni Navy Said To Capture 3 Fishing Boats

NC3012111192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1032 GMT
30 Dec 92

[Text] Sanaa, 30 Dec (MENA)—Informed sources have said that Yemeni naval forces have captured three Egyptian fishing boats in [Yemeni] territorial waters,

according to the Yemeni source. These boats are being held at the naval base in al-Hudaydah.

It is worth noting that this incident is not the first. Previously, a number of Egyptian fishing boats were captured in Yemeni territorial waters this year.

Alleged Mastermind of Attacks on Tourists Killed NC2912163592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1545 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Text] Asyut, Upper Egypt, 29 Dec (MENA)—Nasir Hamdan Muhammad, leader of the Islamic Group in the village of al-Matawi'ah in Dayrut, Upper Egypt, was killed at dawn today. He tried to shoot Ahmad 'Ali 'Abd-al-Hamid, a security guard in the village of Qanamish [place name as received]. In the exchange of fire, the extremist was immediately killed.

[Paris AFP in English at 1449 GMT on 29 December reports: "A Muslim fundamentalist leader considered to be the brains behind most attacks on tourists, Christians and police in Egypt was shot dead early Tuesday, police said.

["Nasir Hamdan Muhammad, a leader of the outlawed al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah [the Islamic Group] in Upper Egypt, was shot dead by a government security guard he and fellow al-Jama'ah members had stalked and tried to assassinate, police said.

["The guard, accused of informing on the fundamentalists, avoided being shot by his would-be assassins and then shot dead Muhammad during the clash at Qanamish village, 300 kilometers (180 miles) south of Cairo, police added.

["According to police, Muhammad, the leader of al-Matawi'ah village, just south of Qanamish, has masterminded 90 percent of attacks against foreign tourists, Coptic Christians, and police officers."]

Salsabil Company Defendants' Remand Extended

NC3012113792 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1035 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 30 Dec (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—Counselor 'Abd-al-Majid Mahmud, attorney general at the Supreme State Security Court, has ordered that the remand of nine defendants of the "Salsabil" Computer Company and al-Ummah Information Center be extended for another 30 days pending the outcome of interrogations being conducted by Chief Prosecutor Hisham Hammudsh.

Authorities Arrest Members of Extremist Groups

NC2712184092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1718 GMT
27 Dec 92

[Text] Al-Fayyum, 27 Dec (MENA)—Security forces in al-Fayyum today in coordination with Cairo investigators and state security personnel arrested five active members belonging to two different extremist groups.

The campaign resulted in the arrest of Sha'ban Khalil Muhammad, one of the most prominent members of the al-Shawqiyyun Group. He had escaped from prison, where he was serving a 15-year sentence at hard labor after having been found guilty of killing regular guardman Mahmud 'Abd-al-Karim in Markaz Ibbaway in 1990. He was arrested while in hiding in the Abu Sir area of al-Marj.

The campaign also resulted in the arrests of four members of the al-Jihad Group in Markaz Tamiyah. They are Samir Rashad, 'Abd-al-Hamid Hassanah, Muhammad Amin, and Fawzi 'Abd-al-Majid.

Jihad Leader, Associates Captured

NC2612115092 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1052 GMT 26 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 26 Dec (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—The investigation squad in al-Minya [Upper Egypt] has succeeded in capturing 'Ali' Muhammad Sabir al-Sharif, leader of the al-Jihad Organization's military wing in al-Minya, together with four of his main associates.

Major General Ibrahim 'Israh, assistant interior minister and chief of al-Minya security department, received information that al-Sharif was hiding in an associate's home after escaping from prison disguised as a veiled woman.

Prisoner Reportedly Dies From 'Brutal Torture'

NC2612113392 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1042 GMT 26 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 26 Dec (MENA)—AL-HAQIQAH carries the following report on page four today:

A detainee from al-Shawqiyyun organization died inside Tarah prison as a result of the torture he was subjected to at the hands of officers inside the prison. His body was taken to his village in al-Fayyum with a medical report stating that he died of a heart attack. He was buried amid strict security measures taken by the police, who encircled the village out of fear that the security situation there would deteriorate.

The family of detainee 'Atiyah Shamardan, who was arrested with other members of al-Shawqiyyun Organization two years ago, visited him recently and clearly saw a number of wounds on his face and body. He told them

that he was subjected to brutal torture. The prison administration sent a note on his death several days later through the police.

The inhabitants of al-Siliyin village, the birthplace of the detainee, who enjoyed a good reputation there, were surprised to see large forces from the central security forces encircle the village and its entry points before the arrival of the body, which was buried in the village cemetery amid strict security measures taken in anticipation of an exacerbation of the situation.

Paper Satisfied With PLO Stand on Hamas Demand

NCH12075392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2125 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 29 Dec (MENA)—AL-AHRAM is satisfied at the stand the PLO has adopted on the "Hamas" movement's demand to withdraw from the peace negotiations, although the PLO and Hamas have recently started to coordinate on other issues for the first time.

In its 30 December editorial, AL-AHRAM says that this stand agrees with the results of a recent opinion poll in Israel showing that 30 percent of the 44 members of the Israeli Labor deputies support negotiations with the PLO.

The paper adds that this stand puts the Rabin government in a critical position which, coupled with its mishandling of the deportees issue, might subject it to a major setback if matters develop into withdrawing confidence in the government.

AL-AHRAM says that the shift in the Israeli stand on the PLO is a result of antipathy toward Hamas, on which Israel had pinned hopes of creating political discord in the Palestinian ranks and eventually eliminating the PLO. The paper adds that Hamas' growing popularity at the local level has prompted the Rabin government to reconsider its conciliatory approach with it and made the deputies lean toward the PLO's moderation and call for negotiations with it.

AL-AHRAM concludes that for Israel to correct its twisted ways, it has to return the deportees for humanitarian reasons and recognize the PLO as the only negotiator for and sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Saudi Arabia

Last Batch of Saudi Forces Leaves for Somalia

LD3012121492 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1100 GMT
30 Dec 92

[Excerpts] Tabuk, 30 Dec (SPA)—The fifteenth batch of Saudi troops left Tabuk Airport this morning on planes of the Royal Saudi Air Force heading for Somalia as part of the Saudi force participating in securing the arrival of humanitarian aid to the sons of the fraternal Somali people. [passage omitted on farewell ceremony]

It is worth mentioning that this is the last batch of the members of the Saudi force.

King Fahd Praises 13th GCC Conference

LD2812201492 Riyadh SPA in English 1918 GMT
28 Dec 92

[Text] Riyadh, Dec. 28, SPA—Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz, who presided over the weekly meeting of the Council of Ministers on Monday at Yamam Palace in Riyadh, expressed pleasure over accomplishments of the 13th GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] summit conference held in Abu Dhabi recently.

After the meeting, Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir told SPA the monarch had briefed the council on the outcome of his talks with heads of state of the Gulf Cooperation Council, held on the fringes of the GCC summit in the UAE capital.

King Fahd praised also the positive brotherly spirit which had prevailed during the summit's deliberations and its outcome as stated in the final communique and the Abu Dhabi declaration.

The Saudi monarch lauded the efforts exerted by UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan al Nuhayyan to ensure the summit's success and help realize its goals.

King Fahd briefed the council on his talks with Qatari Crown Prince and Defence Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah al Thani during their meeting in Riyadh on Sunday and explained all steps that have been taken to end the border issue between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the state of Qatar.

He said he had noticed that since the signing of the agreement with Qatar in al-Madinah, some mass media carried issues and names that do not match reality.

"If they had returned to the joint statement released by the two countries at that time, they would have realized that the historic ties and brotherly relations and neighbourliness (between the Kingdom and Qatar) cannot be doubted," he said.

Al-Sha'ir said the council reviewed a summary of reports on the most important Arab and international developments, notably the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Somalia.

It listened to a report by the Ministry of Defence and Aviation about the movement of batches of a Saudi force that will participate in securing humanitarian aid to Somalia, in line with a U.N. Security Council resolution.

The council expressed relief for the humanitarian duty performed by the Kingdom towards the Somali people on various levels and the missions assigned to the Saudi force.

Turning to the issue of Palestinian deportees, the council reiterated its grave regret and pain over the continued sufferings of Palestinian brothers, especially under such harsh weather conditions.

It called on international organizations to intervene quickly to end this catastrophe and return the deportees to their homeland and families as soon as possible.

On the internal level, the council was briefed on the outcome of the meetings of the higher Hajj committee, chaired by Interior Minister Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and King Fahd commented on the general framework of the state budget in anticipation of announcing it within the next few days.

Oil Minister Hisham Nazir gave a summarized report on the situation of the oil market.

The council approved the conducting of preliminary contacts between the Ministry of Finance and national economy and Germany, Canada, Italy, U.S., Holland, Greece, Turkey, China, Argentina and other EC members and Japan to hold agreements with these states to encourage and protect investments and prevent double taxation.

The council also approved 14th administrative grade appointments in the National Guard and the Ministry of Commerce.

Qatari Heir Apparent Arrives in Riyadh

LD2712154992 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1516 GMT 27
Dec 92

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 27 Dec (SPA)—His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, heir apparent and defense minister of sisterly Qatar, arrived in Riyadh for a visit this afternoon. He was welcomed on arrival at King Khalid International Airport by His Royal Highness Amir 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard. [passage omitted]

Qatari Envoy Concludes Visit

LD2812111792 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1045 GMT
28 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 28 Dec (SPA)—His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, heir apparent and defense minister in the fraternal State of Qatar, left Riyadh at noon today, following a visit to the Kingdom during which he was received by King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, may God give him support. [passage omitted]

Reports on Closing of REUTER Office Denied

NC2912175792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1544 GMT
29 Dec 92

[Text] Riyadh, 29 Dec (MENA)—A responsible Saudi media source told MENA that REUTER has no office in Saudi Arabia, and that the Information Ministry did not license the agency to operate in the Kingdom.

This is in response to reports that REUTER's office in Saudi Arabia has been closed down.

It is understood from the statement by the responsible Saudi source that REUTER has no office in the Kingdom to be closed down.

United Arab Emirates**New Interior Minister, Chief of Staff Appointed**

JN3012103592 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0030 GMT
30 Dec 92

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 30 Dec (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nahayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], issued a decree today promoting Major General Hammudah Bin-'Ali to the rank of lieutenant general, and appointing him special adviser to his highness with the rank of minister.

Shaykh Zayid issued another decree appointing Lieutenant General Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-Badi to the post of interior minister.

The UAE president issued a third decree appointing Major General Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Zayid Al Nahayyan to the post of chief of staff of the Armed Forces.

His highness issued a fourth decree appointing Shaykh Hazza' Bin-Zayid Al Nahayyan as head of the State Security Organ with the rank of minister.

Yemen**Explosions Reported in Aden; Austrian Killed**

JN3012074092 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] In Yemen, it has been reported that two explosions occurred simultaneously at Aden Port at approximately 2140 local time last night. According to AFP, the first explosion occurred at the (Gold Mihor) Hotel, killing an Austrian national and seriously injuring his wife, in addition to causing immense material damage.

The second explosion occurred at the same time at the Aden Beach Hotel at the other end of the city. Two men were wounded when the bomb they were carrying exploded while they were preparing to place it in a corner of the hotel.

Eyewitnesses said that the security forces arrested the two men, whose identity and true motives behind this act of aggression have not yet been disclosed.

According to the same sources, a third bomb was discovered in a car in downtown Aden, but this was immediately defused.

REUTER wondered whether any of the U.S. soldiers and experts who are residing in the Aden Hotel was hurt in the explosion. However, sources at the U.S. State Department and the Defense Department in Washington told the agency's correspondent that none of the Americans was hurt in these incidents.

It is worth noting that approximately 100 U.S. soldiers have been at Aden Port since mid-December within the framework of the facilities provided by the Yemeni Government to the U.S. forces participating in the Restore Hope Operation in Somalia.

While there has not yet been any official clarification of the motives or political affiliations of the perpetrators of these incidents in Yemen, police sources told AFP that the two men who planted the bomb in the Aden Hotel are Yemeni citizens and may be affiliated with extremist fundamentalism.

Saddam Visits Ministry, Praises Achievements

JN2712204992 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT
27 Dec 92

[Text] President Saddam Husayn has challenged state organs to work more efficiently and quickly because this is what Iraq needs to reconstruct what was destroyed by the 30-state aggression. His excellency made the statement today when he visited the Ministry of Housing and Reconstruction to personally observe some of the projects it is implementing.

He stressed the importance of having qualified people in the state organs, and his excellency demanded that their names be entered into computers, along with their scientific qualifications and experience, so that they can be easily summoned at any time.

President Saddam Husayn referred to the ancient Iraqis' creativity in the field of construction, and said the Westerners, since their modern awakening and through their contacts with the Arabs, have adopted the Arab model of building and Arab building materials and developed them to fit their needs and environment. His excellency also touched on the Iraqi capability of building bridges.

He said Iraq had 994 bridges, of which the sinful aggressors destroyed 133. But, he said, the lofty Iraqis have rebuilt 129 bridges, and only four bridges remain destroyed but will be rebuilt soon.

President Saddam added that the Iraqis have built 84 new bridges over the Saddam River. Thus, a total of 213 bridges have been constructed. His excellency also stressed that reconstructing what was destroyed by the aggressors has given us a wide experience in all fields of construction.

Ambassador: Plane Downing 'Blatant Aggression'

NC2912191592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1847 GMT
29 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 29 Dec (MENA)—Ambassador Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent delegate to the Arab League, has stated that he briefed the League's Secretariat on the Iraqi official statement on the recent downing of an Iraqi plane by U.S. fighter aircraft. He stressed that the Iraqi Air Force is entitled to patrol Iraqi airspace.

Ambassador Najm reiterated that the downing of the Iraqi plane was an act of blatant aggression which was in no way linked to the UN Security Council resolutions on the Gulf region.

Responding to a question on the proposed emergency meeting of Arab foreign ministers to discuss the issue of the Palestinian deportees, Ambassador Najm said Iraq welcomes any Arab meeting to discuss fateful issues that could affect the future of the Arab nation.

Opposition Radio on U.S. Downing of Aircraft

NC2912155492 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1620 GMT 28 Dec 92

[Text] Every day the international community shows its determination to nip in the bud any attempt by the Iraqi regime to violate the UN resolutions. At 1000 yesterday, two Iraqi military aircraft violated the no-fly zone 20 miles south of the 32d parallel. Two U.S. F-15's chased them outside the zone. Twenty minutes later, the Iraqi aircraft repeated the attempt and a formation of U.S. F-16's, which are part of the U.S. forces operating in Southeast Asia [as heard], chased them and warned the two Iraqi pilots to leave the forbidden zone. The Iraqi aircraft refused to obey the orders and tried to confront the U.S. aircraft, which shot down one of them and forced the other outside the zone.

U.S. President George Bush described the incident as a big mistake by the Iraqi regime and as another risk if it believes that he will not be firm as his term draws to a close. He said that if such an incident recurs, it will meet the same result. He stressed that the United States is not threatening anyone, but the UN resolutions must be implemented.

Regarding Saddam Husayn's statement that he reserves the right to retaliate at the appropriate time, the United States considered this statement as blatant evidence that Iraq continues to violate the UN resolutions.

In Little Rock, Arkansas, U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton expressed his admiration for the U.S. pilots' performance. In an interview with a U.S. television network, CIA Director Robert Gates said that the Iraqi regime continues to cheat and evade the UN resolutions. He said the incident demonstrates the Iraqi regime's aggressive policy and defiance of the international community. He said that this regime has hampered international relief aid to Kurdistan.

Former CIA official (John Koehler) said he believes that Saddam Husayn is making another strategic miscalculation in exploiting the current transitional period in the United States and in trying to reassert his sovereignty over Iraqi Kurdistan. This will cost him a great deal, he said, because international public opinion opposes him and UN forces are deployed there. [as heard] He said that the situation in Iraq and the region will remain tense as long as Saddam Husayn remains in power.

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait Sued Launching Trade War

JN2712085892 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT
27 Dec 92

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Dec (INA)—Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih has revealed some aspects of the conspiracies hatched by Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers against Iraq and its people as well as their persistent attempts to harm and destroy the Iraqi economy.

In statements to the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH published today, the trade minister said: "The Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers are using a number of smugglers to smuggle sheep and food supplies from Iraq in return for large amounts of money. The smuggled sheep and food supplies are burned on receipt along the borders."

The trade minister added that these rulers are endeavoring to buy all of Iraq's food requirements at double prices in an attempt to deny the Iraqi people access to basic food supplies. This is being done, he noted, through buying the commodities Iraq wants to buy, particularly the food items Iraq wants to make available for its people during the blessed month of Ramadan.

The trade minister went on to say: "When the organs of the Ministry of Trade conclude an agreement to purchase any commodity, the Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers follow up the transactions of such an agreement to purchase the commodity in question at exorbitant prices in an exposed bid to deny the Iraqi people access to some consumer products."

It is to be noted that some Arab and foreign news reports have recently spoken of Saudi and Kuwaiti practices aimed at harming the Iraqi economy. The Iraqi customs authorities have apprehended two gangs which were engaged in smuggling sheep from Iraq and selling them on the al-Safa market along the Iraq-Saudi borders at exorbitant prices.

Minister Receives Visiting Russian Official

JN2612184992 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1735 GMT
26 Dec 92

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Dec (INA)—Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, Revolution Command Council member and defense minister, has received Gennadiy Petrovich Kazantsev, deputy leader of the Russian Liberal Democratic Party [name and title as received], and his accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, Staff Gen. 'Ali Hasan al-Majid stressed that by rallying around their leader President Saddam Husayn, the Iraqis have been able to stand fast in the face of the 30-state aggression, and that they will continue to firmly adhere to their principles and independence no matter how long the confrontation lasts and regardless of how dear the sacrifices are. He said that the Iraqi people are capable of confronting the defeated

Zionist-colonialist policy through their solid national will, thus providing a militant example for all free peoples.

Mr. Kazantsev said: The U.S.-Western propaganda to destroy Iraq is now exposed, and what we have seen refutes what is being propagated against Iraq. We will also work to expose the false international legitimacy against Iraq. He said that many Russians are following the struggle of the heroic Iraqi people, who are rallying around their leader Saddam Husayn. The deputy leader of the Russian Liberal Democratic Party expressed his confidence in Iraq's ultimate victory over the enemies of Iraq and mankind.

Ba'th Party Launches 'People's Guards' Program

JN2912172092 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio
Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Excerpt] The organizations of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party have launched "the People's Guards" militant program in implementation of leader President Saddam Husayn's instructions during his meeting with comrade members of the Baghdad branches of the party, when the leader comrade considered such a practice to be one of the Ba'thists' militant tasks during the current stage.

Comrades at the organizations of the Baghdad branch of the party have managed to carry out many activities and measures aimed at maintaining citizens' security and safeguarding their property, each within a geographic location under its militant responsibility.

During the period 23 November to 23 December 1992, the people's guards managed to arrest 82 thieves, 60 suspects, and 21 deserters from the military services. They have also returned 47 stolen cars, aborted 25 attempted robberies, and dealt with many incidents and cases of a humanitarian nature. [passage omitted]

Barzani Chairs Meeting on Security Force

JN2712211592 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan
in Arabic 1530 GMT 27 Dec 92

[Text] At 1200 today, 27 December, under the chairmanship of brother struggler Mas'ud Barzani and attended by 'Ali 'Abdallah, deputy secretary of our party [Kurdistan Democratic Party], and Colonel 'Ali, political bureau member of our party and deputy commander of the Kurdistan Revolutionary Army, and the officers in charge of the Peshemerga forces, a meeting of the command of the Kurdistan Revolutionary Army was held. This meeting decided the subject of previous meetings: the formation of a military force that will be entrusted with the security of the government of the Kurdistan region.

Prime Minister Comments on 'Critic' Over Deportees

Return Tied to Ending Violence

TAJ012052992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English
0300 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has said the expelled Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists will not be allowed to return home unless all the Palestinian organizations decide to halt terrorism and violence for the duration of the peace negotiations. Speaking last night in Jerusalem to the International Conference of Jewish Jurists, Rabin said the Lebanese Government would not be allowed to get Israel involved once again with the expelled people:

[Begin Rabin recording] Beyond what we decided—the right of every one of them to appeal within 60 days to committees of appeal—we are determined: They will not come back to Israel whatever will happen, unless there will be a complete change and all the organizations will decide to maintain tranquility: No violence, no terror during the peace negotiations. [end recording]

Lebanese Refusal 'Disappointing'

TAJ01205292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English
0300 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] The prime minister's spokesman, Gad Ben-Ari, has expressed regret over the Lebanese Government's rejection of the Israeli offer to allow one Red Cross convoy to visit the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] camp. Ben-Ari was speaking to reporter Jack Katzeneff.

[Begin recording] [Ben-Ari] Well, their announcement that they are not going to go ahead with this deal is very disappointing, but it is a proof that the Lebanese are doing anything they can to abuse their situation there in the camp, to take advantage of what has been created there, and to prolong the situation for as long as possible for purposes of their propaganda. They have no intention for any change, and it is very regretful.

[Katzeneff] Israel will refuse any additional offer from James Jonah to make some additional concession?

[Ben-Ari] Well, I am in no position to say what Israel will or will not do. Mr. James Jonah is going to meet with the prime minister tomorrow morning, and the prime minister will hear what he has to say. He comes back from Beirut, and we will listen to what he has to say, and then we will see what comes next. [end recording]

Rabin Meets UN Envoy, Press

TAJ012094492 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0837 GMT 30 Dec 92

[News conference with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in the press room of the Prime Minister's Office following a meeting with UN envoy James Jonah—live]

[Text] [Rabin] Good morning. I have just ended a meeting with Mr. Jonah, the UN secretary's special envoy, who returned from Lebanon. He was not allowed to reach the place where the Palestinians who were removed by us are staying. He met with the prime minister and president there.

Lebanon's position is known. As may be recalled, at first the Lebanese did not prevent UNRWA [UN Relief and Works Agency] and the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] from reaching the deportees and extending supplies to them. Only after a day or two did the Lebanese Government make a decision to stop the humanitarian activity by UNRWA, the ICRC, and other bodies. As you know, the day before yesterday the ICRC raised a proposal whereby we would allow a five-member medical delegation to reach the Palestinians, while at the same time the Lebanese Government would allow supplies to reach the deportees from Beirut through UNRWA, the ICRC, and other elements. We answered in the affirmative, but Lebanon refused, and this Lebanese position also was made clear to the UN secretary's envoy. In other words, we accepted while Lebanon rejected the ICRC's appeal for a parallel ICRC move from Beirut and medical assistance via the security zone.

Under these circumstances, our position is absolutely clear. For security reasons of concern to Israeli residents—as well as both Jewish and Palestinian residents of Judea, Samaria, and Gaza—the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leadership was removed for a limited period of time, which will not exceed two years. They were and are allowed to appeal the removal individually before appeals committees. The order issued by the military commanders is a personal order, and the appeal must be personal, too. To date, only one appeal has been filed, and my impression is that somebody may be pressuring those who may want to appeal not to do so. In any event, our position is steadfast: They were removed—temporarily removed—to meet the security needs of Israel and of both Jewish and non-Jewish residents of the territories, and we intend to stand by our decision. If the ICRC proposal comes up again in the same manner as before, we will also agree to it—now, tomorrow, or the day after—just as we have already done. To the ICRC's credit, I would like to say that its representative issued a statement making it clear that Lebanon refused while Israel agreed. If I am not mistaken, he said that Israel's answer is the only ray of hope in their entire humanitarian effort.

This is it. I have nothing else to add.

[Israel Television's Nisim Mish'al] Mr. Prime Minister, can you confirm that supplies are still reaching the deportees?

[Rabin] They are undoubtedly receiving supplies; there is no hunger there. I will not pretend that they are on vacation at a Lebanese spa, but we know and we have proof that there is no problem of supplies. The UNRWA representative who visits the Palestinians from time to

time also confirms—and I will not say how we received this information, but it was not through intelligence sources—that there is no hunger problem there.

[Qol Yisra'el political correspondent Shlomo Ratz] Mr. Prime Minister, what is the status of the proposal that the deportees leave for a third country, possibly a European one?

[Rabin] I do not know what the Lebanese Government's position will be; divergent views apparently have been voiced on this issue. So far, no European or other country has volunteered or offered to take them in for the length of time for which each of them has been removed; these terms vary from man to man, from several months up to two years. If some country makes such a proposal to the Lebanese Government, I will take a very positive view of it because it will offer a way to solve what the Lebanese Government feels is its plight.

Third Country Sought

TAJ012121692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] The special UN envoy, James Jonah, met with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in Jerusalem this morning, with still no end in sight to the crisis over the 415 Palestinian deportees stranded in south Lebanon. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] Prime Minister Rabin condemned Lebanon's refusal to accept the Red Cross proposal as cruel, and he called on Arab and European countries, which have been expressing sympathy for the plight of the expelled Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists, to accept them for the two years of their exile.

[Rabin] And if there will be a country that will give them the possibility to stay there for a while till their term of removal will expire, I believe it will help to solve the problem. If a third country will agree to give them the possibility to stay there, and this government will ask us to facilitate the transportation of them, we'll do it on one condition: That they'll go there, and we'll have to find out to what extent it's in accordance with our laws.

[Katzenell] However, Israel is not negotiating with possible host countries, Rabin said, as this would imply that the expelled men are still Israel's responsibility instead of Lebanon's.

Rabin added that he believes most of the 415 would disperse to third countries, if they were given the chance. He said only one of the 415 had applied to one of the special appeal committees which are to reconsider the expulsions. The prime minister said there is evidence that pressure is being put upon those who wish to appeal not to do so.

And what about the 10 who were expelled by mistake—for example, the 16-year-old boy from Hebron arrested for scrawling slogans on walls?

[Rabin] Whenever somebody will bring him to the place that is under our control, he will be brought back safely home. Everyone, once they notify to a proper channel, to us—we are not there, we are not entering because it's an area under the control of the Lebanese Government, and the Lebanese Army units are in the vicinity of the place where the Palestinians are located—if somebody will come and say they are coming, the 10, we'll receive them.

[Katzenell] However, six of the 10 will have to be prosecuted for serious crimes, and their expulsion was against Rabin's express order. Rabin says: If they want to come back, Israel will accept them, but he is not deluding himself that they will.

[Rabin] I am not saying that they have to go to the committee, if we'll admit that it was done by a mistake. But this kind of a mistake was that they were in the middle of legal preparation to bring them before the courts. I doubt if they'll volunteer to come, knowing what is expected to them.

[Katzenell] Rabin noted with approval that the International Red Cross [IRC] in Geneva had described Israel's agreement to the proposal for simultaneous supply columns as the only ray of light, and he implied that the problem could be solved if other bodies would adopt a similar line.

[Rabin] I believe that it's time that countries like the United States or the UN to advise the Lebanese Government to respond positively to the IRC proposal. If they change their mind, we are ready. [end recording]

Refugee meeting with Prime Minister Rabin, the UN envoy met with Shimon Peres at the Foreign Ministry.

Arabs Meet With UN Envoy, See No Signs of Compromise

TAJ012074692 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] There is no change and there are no compromises between Israeli and Lebanon on the issue of the deportees. This was stated by representatives of the Israeli Arab delegation that met with UN envoy James Jonah at the American Colony Hotel in East Jerusalem a short while ago. Our correspondent Udi Segal reports from the broadcasting van:

[Segal] James Jonah's meeting with the Israeli Arab delegation lasted only 25 minutes. The delegation included Ibrahim Nimr Husayn, chairman of the Supreme Arab Follow-Up Committee; Knesset Member [MK] 'Abd-al-Wahab Darwishah, and Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi. The Israeli Arabs presented to Jonah the same positions he heard from the Palestinian delegation: that Israel is responsible for the deportees, should return them to their homes at once, and should see to it that aid is transferred to them via the security zone. MK 'Abd-al-Wahab Darwishah says that Jonah's remarks indicate

that there is no compromise between Israel and Lebanon on the issue of aid to the deportees.

[Begin Darwishah recording] I want and crave a change, but to my great regret, what we heard from the UN secretary's envoy today indicates that there are no compromises yet; there are no signs of a change. He is going to meet with the prime minister and foreign minister, and is engaged in persuasion efforts. The Lebanese gave him an unequivocally negative answer that, to the best of our understanding, is irreversible. I hope that in his meetings today, the Israeli Government will allow a chance for some change and improvement in the situation. [end recording]

[Segal] When the Israeli Arabs arrived for the meeting, Jonah expressed his displeasure with the fact that media people were present. Despite his refusal to grant an interview, he told the waiting reporters that the meeting was one of courtesy rather than an official meeting within the framework of his visit to the region. Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi thinks otherwise.

[Begin al-Tibi recording] This was an official meeting between representatives of the Arab population in Israel and UN Secretary Butrus-Ghali's official envoy, and it is the first meeting of its kind. We understood from him, implicitly, that it was the Israeli Government that expelled the people and is the one that should shoulder the responsibility. [end recording]

More Deportee Appeals Submitted on Basis of 'New Facts'

TAJ012103192 Jerusalem Qal Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Attorneys Avigdor Feldman, Le'a Zemel, and Andre Rosenthal this morning asked the High Court of Justice to order the return of all the deportees from Lebanon on the basis of new facts and a substantive change in circumstances which had been unknown to the justices when they allowed the deportation. Our legal affairs correspondent Mira Amisalem reports that among the new facts pointed out by the attorneys are the gravity of the situation in which the deportees have found themselves, without food and basic equipment. The attorneys note that the deportation was carried out negligently, that the security authorities have admitted already that 10 of the deportees were expelled by mistake, and that the deportation, which was presented as being of such a vital nature that it justified dealing a blow to human rights, was performed in a negligent manner. The attorneys also claim that one also must take into consideration the fact that the State Attorney's Office and the justice minister opposed the deportation because of the responsibility and unbiased professionalism shown by the State Attorney's Office.

The Association for Prisoners and Orphans, which coordinated the humanitarian aid on behalf of Israel's Arabs, also has appealed to the High Court, asking that the

association or the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) be allowed to transfer this aid to the deportees.

Our correspondent notes that Justice Aharon Barak already has ruled that a seven-justice panel will hear two additional requests: one to allow the ICRC convoy to go through the security zone, and another to order that the sick who were moved out of Lebanese hospitals be hospitalized in Marj 'Uyun, in the security zone.

Army Issues List of 10 Deportees To Be Returned

TA2912202592 Jerusalem Qal Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Excerpts] Supreme Court Justice Aharon Barak has ruled that two petitions for temporary orders regarding the deportees will be heard by a seven-justice panel. Both petitions have been filed by an attorney representing the leader of the Democratic Arab Party, 'Abd-al-Wahab Darwishah; one calls on the government to allow a Red Cross convoy to take in supplies to the deportees by Israeli-controlled territory; the other would allow sick deportees, evicted from Lebanese hospitals, to receive treatment at the Marj 'Uyun Hospital in the security zone. The petitioner in this regard bases his argument on a statement by a senior state prosecutor that Israel will permit the hospitalization of the sick among the deportees. [passage omitted]

Justice Minister David Libe's says that had he had all the information at his disposal at the time, he would have voted in the cabinet against the deportations. He was speaking at a meeting of the Knesset Law and Constitution Committee, which discussed the role of the State Attorney's Office in presenting the government's case to the High Court hearing the petitions against expulsion. [passage omitted]

Now, with information on the 10 deportees who were expelled by mistake, over to Alan Ben-Ami:

[Ben-Ami live on the phone] Well, the Israel Army spokesman has finally released a list of the 10 people who were mistakenly deported. At the same time, it is pointed out that all 10 have various security offenses against them. Some are due to stand trial for these offenses, and they range from serious to other offenses. According to the Israel Army spokesman, one of the 10 was expelled because of mistaken identity; two had already been brought before courts and found guilty, apparently; and seven were to be brought before courts some time in the future.

The list of the people: There are four from Judaea and Samaria: Jawad 'Issa Muhammad Zin-al-Din; Iyad Mufti Husayn Zin-al-Din; and Bassem Salim al-Siyuri, who is the teenager who apparently is 17, from Hebron, who was arrested by mistake and deported. The fourth man from Judaea and Samaria is named Sa'id Ibrahim Muhammad Umar.

Among the offenses for which these people were being held were some which involved throwing Molotov cocktails at civilian and military vehicles.

From the Gaza Strip there are six named: 'Iz-al-Din Nimr 'Ali Bashir; Mahmud 'Abd-al-Husayn 'Aqlan; 'Ali Muhammad al-Tayyab; Hasan Mahbuh; Khalid Mahmud Mustafa Salibi; and Akram Ahmad Muhammad Tala'. All of these, too, are facing various charges, including carrying out different attacks on either civilian or military targets.

Baraq Opposes Transferring Aid to Deportees

TA2912163192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, chief of staff, appeared today before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. He told the committee members that he opposes the transfer of aid to the deportees in south Lebanon. As far as we are concerned, he said, the act has been completed. Our Knesset correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that, in response to a question by Meretz Knesset Member Yosi Sarid, Gen. Baraq said that what is taking place at the deportees' encampment is a political and propaganda show, which fully exploits our democracy. According to him, whoever lost his innocence regarding Lebanon will understand that one request for aid will be followed by others. Baraq also said that the terrain there is problematic in terms of providing security on the roads.

Baraq further said that it would be a mistake to believe that the Palestinians could make progress in the political discussions when a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] gun is pointed at their heads. [passage omitted]

Peres—Deportation 'Actually Attained Its Goal'

TA2912142992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has said that the deportation has actually attained its goal because it has not harmed the peace process. All the sides have announced that they will pursue the process, he said. The foreign minister added that the deportation was designed to remove the threat posed by the extremist organizations to the participants in the peace process.

Our correspondent Shula Schmerling reports that the foreign minister disclosed that an EC delegation has put off a visit to Israel, apparently due to the deportations.

Rabin on Lifting of 22-Year-Old Deportation Order

TA2512173892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 25 Dec 92

[Text] The commander of the Central Command has decided to cancel the deportation order issued against Majid Muhammad Salamah 22 years ago and to permit

his return to Judea and Samaria. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the recommendations of a committee appointed by the Central Command were accepted, after it transpired that Salamah had not maintained any contact with terrorist organizations or been involved in hostile activity throughout the entire period of his deportation.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman would not disclose Salamah's age or place of residence.

In the middle of the week, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin had informed the leaders of the Meretz faction about the cancellation of the deportation order against Salamah; however, the details were only released for publication today.

Rabin noted that this proves that the appeals committees on deportations operate in parallel to the Central and Southern Command commanders, and consider the requests submitted by residents who were deported from the territories.

Arab Leaders Visit Gaza To Show Sympathy for Deportees

TA2412301592 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 24 Dec 92

[Text] A delegation of dozens of Israeli Arab public figures, including Knesset members [MK's] and heads of local councils, visited the Gaza Strip today to express their sympathy with the families of the deportees and to protest the large number of intifadah casualties. The visit, held at the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] center in Gaza, quickly turned into a vocal protest rally. Our correspondent Gil Sadan reports:

[Begin recording] [Sadan] Today, at the ICRC center in Gaza, a pact was struck—so far only verbally—between the heads of the Israeli Arabs and the Gaza Arabs. MK's, local council heads, and other public figures came here to demand that the government return the deportees, and more.

[Umm al-Fahm Mayor Ra'id Salah Mahajinah, in Arabic with Hebrew subtitles] I tell them: Are you familiar with the word humanity? Are you familiar with the word culture? Are you familiar with the word democracy? In the name of humanity, culture, and democracy, I call on you and say: Has the time not come to release the old man of intifadah, Shaykh Ahmad Yasin? [applause]

[Sadan] The visit of sympathy soon turned into a heated demonstration, right under the observing binoculars of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers.

It has been a long time since Gaza has observed such an alignment of the bitter rivals, the PLO and the Hamas supporters. It has been a long time since such bold statements were made by Israeli MK's:

[Democratic Front for Peace and Equality MK Hashim Mahamid, in Arabic with Hebrew subtitles] The revolution will continue for as long as occupation lasts! The intifadah will continue for as long as occupation lasts! The struggle will continue for as long as the occupation lasts! In saying struggle, we do not only mean the stone. We mean a struggle with every mean at our nation's disposal. [applause; crowd chants in Arabic: "Our demands are legal and just. We want a state and ID's."]

When I say that, I mean that Palestinian nationals have a right, and are even obligated to struggle against the occupation with every means at their disposal.

[Sadan] Am I to understand that an Israeli MK is, in fact, urging the local Gaza population to launch an armed struggle against the State of Israel?

[Mahamid] I did not say that. I am saying that had Tel Aviv been occupied by a foreign force, I would have urged the Jewish population in Tel Aviv in the same manner, calling on them to struggle for their freedom in any way they can. God forbid that the Israeli population should surrender to such an occupation by a foreign country. I want the Jews and all Israelis to stand strong and oppose any form of occupation.

[Sadan] Not a single Israeli Arab political current was absent from today's visit: Labor supporters, Communists, and naturally the heads of the Islamic Movement. A wall-to-wall coalition. [end recording]

Commander Says Expulsions To Bring No 'Immediate Relief'

TA3012120192 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Matan Vilna'i, the commander of the Southern Command, says that the Israel Defense Forces [IDF] in the Gaza Strip have wounded and captured about 100 fugitives in 1992. In a meeting with the heads of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, who are touring the Qatif Bloc today, Major General Vilna'i said that the IDF is prepared for Fatah Day, observed on 1 January. Our correspondent Roni Sofer reports:

[Begin recording] [Sofer] Gen. Vilna'i believes the deportation of 415 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists cannot bring immediate relief in the field, because 400 new men will take the place of the 400 deportees. The general believes that the new 400 will belong to lower-level cadres, but they will nevertheless carry on the struggle against the IDF as proof that the deportation has not wiped out their capability to wage a struggle against the security forces.

Replying to a question, the Southern Command commander said that in 1992, the Army apprehended and injured about 100 fugitives belonging to various terror squads active in the Gaza Strip.

[Vilna'i] Friday, 1 January, is what I believe is called Fatah Day. We are prepared for the possibility that they will try to stage events involving large crowds and, naturally, to carry out terrorist attacks. We are prepared for that. [end recording]

Rabin Decides Against Troop Cuts in Territories

TA2912094792 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Dec 92 p A3

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpt] Yitzhaq Rabin, the prime minister and defense minister, has decided that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will not reduce its forces in the territories at this stage.

Rabin instructed Lieutenant General Ehud Barak, the chief of staff, not to introduce any changes in force levels in the territories during the initial months of the 1993 fiscal year.

In deliberations held by the defense establishment, with the participation of Rabin and Barak, IDF officers raised a proposal to cut forces in the territories, but Rabin decided to postpone the decision at this stage in the wake of the recent rise in attacks.

During the past month, large numbers of IDF troops have been sent to the territories. The IDF multiyear plan includes many budgetary cuts, and there were those in the Army who claimed that they also have to be implemented in the territories.

Military sources estimated that due to the rise in shooting incidents, it is possible that the IDF will again request a supplementary budget for the war against the intifadah. Nevertheless, the sources pointed out that Rabin's decision refers only to operational forces in the territories, while the cuts will be implemented as planned in the various commands. [passage omitted]

Cabinet Meets on Civil Administration Performance

TA2712171392 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 27 Dec 92

[Report by political correspondent Nathan Gutman]

[Excerpts] Some 35,000 babies are born in the Gaza Strip every year. This amazing piece of information was imparted today to the cabinet, whose weekly meeting dealt with the performance of the Civil Administration in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

The Civil Administration heads and the coordinator of activities in the territories briefed the ministers on their offices' operations. They stressed that at present, the most concentrated effort is directed at creating employment in the territories.

The ministers were told that since the Gulf war, the transfer of Gulf states' funds to the territories has dropped from \$250 million to zero. The Palestinian workers, who used to send some \$400 million from the Gulf to the territories, are now themselves receiving aid in Jordan.

In the new situation, the Civil Administration is taking action to encourage capital investment in the territories, with an emphasis on creating jobs. The investments, which stand at \$50 to \$70 million annually, are made by Arabs from Arab countries and the Palestinian diaspora. There is today no reason not to approve the establishment of enterprises and projects in the territories. Major General Dani Rothchild told the cabinet.

The problem is that economic difficulties cause political complications. The bankrupt PLO has been replaced by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] as a conveyor of funds. The Civil Administration, with the slim annual budget of 250 million shekels, vies with Hamas for the task of providing aid. If the budget is increased, the Civil Administration will be able to extend more aid, administration heads asserted. Gen. Rothchild added that with more money, broader action against fundamentalism and in support of the political process will be possible. [passage omitted]

It was agreed at the conclusion of the debate that the prime minister and the finance minister would discuss the issue and submit to the cabinet a more detailed proposal for an increased Civil Administration budget. [passage omitted]

Rabin 'Optimistic' on Syrian Accord in 1993

TA2712112492 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew
27 Dec 92 pp 1, 4

[Report by Yig'al Vilfand]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is optimistic about the Syrian issue and hopes that in 1993 a significant accord can be reached in the negotiations with Damascus. Rabin made the remarks in an address to the 15th convention of the Kibbutz Ha'artai Movement in 'En Hashofet. [passage omitted]

On political issues, Rabin said that the new government has given itself two new goals: to look for any chance for peace without harming security and to advance the economic and productive sectors.

On Syria, Rabin said that there has been a change in policy. There is now an understanding that we cannot talk about peace in return for peace and that Resolutions 242 and 338 are also applicable for the Syrian side. He said that Israel is prepared to bring about an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal to recognized and secure borders on the Golan Heights. The scope of the withdrawal will be decided according to the level of Syrian readiness to make progress in the peace process. That

optimism is based on the fact that Syria has a strong leader capable of making decisions and implementing them.

Rabin also said that he has withstood and will continue to withstand the pressures of Golan Heights settlers and Israeli citizens when he becomes convinced that concessions also have to be made on the Golan Heights for peace.

On Lebanon, Rabin said that Beirut will not agree to a peace accord without a signal from Syria.

With Jordan, except for the Palestinian issue, the problems are relatively minor, but Amman cannot reach any accord without a solution to the Palestinian problem. On the Palestinians, Rabin reiterated his view that negotiations should be conducted with the residents of the territories. These negotiations cannot be aimed at finding a solution all at once, but call for two stages, otherwise there will be an explosion.

In reference to Hamas, Rabin explained that all terrorists are the same; they only differ on their political targets. Compared to Hamas and the Islamic Jihad, which are not prepared to conduct a dialogue and whose sole aim is to murder and destroy, those who support the PLO in the territories are ready for a dialogue. "We have reached the conclusion that without a serious blow it will not be possible to continue the peace process. I do not believe in uprooting it in one fell swoop, but I am in favor of a strong blow, and therefore we preferred temporarily distancing the Hamas leaders and the instigators to other proposals, such as the death penalty. It is a temporary expulsion and contains the possibility of appealing the decision within 60 days. We did not want to do anything irreversible."

In reference to the government decision not to permit the Red Cross to transfer aid to the deportees through Israeli territory, Rabin said that the presentation in the media and in Lebanon as a humanitarian issue drives him mad. It is political propaganda aimed at harming Israel, Rabin said.

Burq Calls Talk of IDF Golan Withdrawal Plan 'Premature'

TA2912141792 Jerusalem Qd Yima'el in Hebrew 1300
GMT 29 Dec 92

[Excerpts] Speaking at a meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee today, Lieutenant General Ehud Burq, chief of staff, said that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is preparing no contingency plans for partial withdrawal or any other arrangement on the Golan Heights. Our Knesset correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that, in response to a question from Likud Knesset Member Binyamin Netanyahu, Gen. Burq said that such talk is premature.

After the meeting, Netanyahu told our correspondent that the fact that the chief of staff did not unequivocally deny this, indicates that the issue may be premature, but it is gradually ripening.

Referring to the deportees, Gen. Barak said that mistakes were indeed made during the deportation, but the 10 who were mistakenly deported are not innocent; some of them are suspected of murder and incitement. [passage omitted]

Peres—No Guarantee Palestinian Public Will Honor Pact

TAJ012084192 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 30 Dec 92 p 7

[Report by Yig'al Qatzer]

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said yesterday that even if Israel reaches an agreement with the Palestinian delegation, there is no guarantee that the agreement will be honored by the Palestinian public. "Israel faces two problems: how to reach an agreement, and how to ensure that the Palestinians honor it. We may reach an agreement with one organization or another, but there is no guarantee that the Palestinian public will honor it. In fact, in the absence of a government or a majority-endorsed proposal that is binding on everyone, what emerges is a reign of shooting and of terror and assassinations," Peres said at a news conference in Haifa. [passage omitted]

As for the emerging government trend toward a direct dialogue with the PLO, Peres said that Israel will talk with anyone the Palestinians elect as their representative to the talks. "We can talk with any organization that does not engage in terrorism and is prepared to accept the autonomy arrangement as the basis for negotiations. We would prefer there to be elected representatives as well, but this is not a condition."

Hizballah Reportedly Phoned in False Bomb Threat

NC2912222192 Paris AFP in English 2150 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Text] Jerusalem, Dec 29 (AFP) - A false bomb alert by a caller claiming to belong to the pro-Iranian Hizballah movement disrupted a budget debate in the Israeli parliament Tuesday, a parliamentary spokesman said.

"An anonymous caller saying he was from the Hizballah said by telephone that a bomb was going to explode. Several minutes later the parliament's guard received a second telephone warning," the spokesman said.

The police searched the premises but found nothing, and parliament continued its debate.

The Hizballah is not believed to have a presence in Israel or the occupied territories. It has camps in Lebanon.

Authorities Close Two Universities in Gaza

TA2912183092 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Text] The Gaza Strip Civil Administration today informed the managements of the Islamic and al-Azhar Universities in Gaza of the security authorities' decision to suspend studies in the universities until further notice. Studies were expected to resume this morning at the two universities following the lifting of curfew from Gaza. It is worth noting that all other educational institutions in the Gaza Strip began the winter holidays a week ago and studies will be resumed in them on 5 January.

29 Dec Incidents in Territories Reported

TAJ012113492 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 30 Dec 92 p A3

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rahin and Lili Galdi]

[Text] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol came under terrorist gunfire last night from an ambush in the area of Qabatiyah in the Janin District. No one was hurt and no damage was caused. Army sources said the troops returned fire but the terrorists were apparently unharmed. IDF reinforcements were rushed to the scene and combed the area.

This is the second terrorist attack against IDF troops within 24 hours. The night before, an officer was slightly injured when an IDF patrol came under fire in the vicinity of the Gaza Strip al-Nusayrat refugee camp.

IDF troops shot an Arab youth from the village of Husan who, along with others, pelted IDF soldiers with stones. He sustained moderate to serious injuries and was taken to al-Husayn Hospital in Bayt Jala.

Army sources reported that an IDF detail came under a barrage of stones and empty bottles while carrying out initiated activities in the vicinity of Bethlehem's Manger Square. The soldiers ordered the throwers to halt, and when they refused, the soldiers opened fire.

Yesterday morning, a female Gaza resident tried to stab a soldier; he was grazed and treated on the spot. During her interrogation, the stabber admitted that she had purchased a knife with the intention of murdering an IDF soldier.

A series of incidents were reported yesterday in the territories. Five Palestinians were wounded in the Strip and two in the West Bank. Several stone-throwing incidents were reported in refugee camps in the southern Gaza Strip and in Gaza city. Stones were also thrown in Ramallah and Janin, and two residents sustained slight injuries.

Last night the body of 'Atallah Nasir al-'Asi, a 26-year-old resident of Rafah, was found with marks indicating gunshot wounds. IDF authorities believe he was murdered for suspected collaboration.

A Molotov cocktail was thrown last night at a moving Army vehicle near the Balatah refugee camp in the Nabulus District. The bottle shattered and ignited on the road, causing no casualties. The soldiers fired at the bottle throwers and launched searches.

Two Israeli cars were set on fire on Mount Zion in Jerusalem yesterday afternoon. The cars were gutted.

Army sources have reported an increase in the incidence of disturbances and the use of guns by residents in the territories. A senior source noted that the number of Palestinian fatalities has also risen. In the past two weeks, 11 Palestinians have been killed by the IDF.

Lieutenant Yuval Lotem, a reserve officer from Kfar Shmaryahu, was sentenced to 28 days in an army jail for refusing to serve in the territories. Lotem, a 35-year-old cinematography student, told his commanders that he was not prepared "to engage in oppression and to join his unit, which was assigned to the southern Gaza Strip."

Since the beginning of the intifadah, 171 soldiers and officers have been sentenced to imprisonment for refusal to serve in the territories; of these, 19 were soldiers and the others reservists. Lotem is the 42d officer imprisoned for his refusal to serve in the territories.

Document Assesses Future Relations With U.S.

TA2612123292

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv DAVAR and Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 23 December carry articles by their political correspondents on a document published by Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies reviewing U.S. foreign policy and Israeli-U.S. relations during the upcoming Clinton administration. DAVAR's article by Hemi Shalev on page 18 is entitled "Stressing Common Values," while HA'ARETZ's article by 'Aqiva Eldor on page B5 is entitled "The Palestinian David and the Israeli Goliath."

The paper, entitled "In the Wake of the U.S. Elections: Preparing for Changes in Israeli-U.S. Relations," is said to be "the first comprehensive document on the eve of the new administration dealing with relations with the only superpower." It was drafted by U.S. expert Dori Gold along with editors Yosef Alper and Shay Feldman of the Jaffee Center, with contributions by Avraham Ben-Tzvi, an expert on U.S. politics; Hanan Bar-On, a former assistant director general of the Foreign Ministry and director of its North America Division; Dan Halperin, a former economic attache at the Israeli Embassy in Washington; Ari'el Weiss, an aide to several prominent U.S. congressmen before he immigrated to Israel; Aharon Yariv, a retired general and director of the Jaffee Center; Tzvi Rafiah, a U.S. expert who held various

senior positions at the Israeli Embassy in Washington; and Gal Levi. The team began collecting the material before the U.S. elections, and it bases its findings and recommendations on remarks and statements by President-elect Bill Clinton and by his aides and associates.

The authors dwell on the changes in U.S. foreign policy on the Middle East which began in the Bush era, most of them as a result of the end of the Cold War, the economic situation in the United States, and the lessons of the Gulf War. Another reason was the avowed tendency of the Bush administration to shift the stress of U.S. foreign policy from Europe to Asia. The authors believe that this shift "further eroded the importance of the Middle East in the eyes of the administration."

The paper notes that as part of the efforts to ensure "a warm and sympathetic attitude toward Israel" on the part of the new administration, both houses of Congress, and U.S. public opinion, Israel should put the stress on the common values that have always served as the basis of Israeli-U.S. relations in view of the assessment that the strategic dimension of the bilateral relations might lose, at least partly, "the prominence it enjoyed in the last decade." The authors recommend that Israel weigh its actions, particularly in the territories, "taking into consideration the hypersensitivity that the Clinton administration may evince on the issue of human rights."

The authors believe that only one other issue might deeply affect bilateral relations: Israel's nuclear potential. They assume that within the international efforts to control nonconventional weapons proliferation Washington will continue to regard Israel as a "special case." They believe "Clinton will embrace the approach of his predecessor, who abstained from taking action liable to weaken Israel's deterrent power as long as it is engaged in a complicated peace process which will call for territorial concessions."

Relying on a series of polls, the authors warn that Rabin's government is in for quite some trouble with U.S. public opinion. "First, there are great expectations in the United States that the new Israeli Government will advance the peace process with the Arabs. Hence, if difficulties arise in the peace process and Israel is perceived as being responsible for them," we might experience the same criticism which characterized the Shamir era. "Second, despite the improvement in Israel's image, one must bear in mind that Americans are less interested today in foreign affairs."

Although the "Palestinization" of the Arab-Israeli conflict has narrowed the gap in sympathy toward Israel and the Arabs, the authors note that to some extent it is still being perceived as "the Palestinian David and the Israeli Goliath." They propose to tackle this phenomenon by stressing the threat posed to Israel and to peace by the Arab countries and Islamic fundamentalism in the region. But, "above all else," the authors reiterate the importance of adopting positions held in consensus by

the bulk of Americans, "such as human rights, democracy, and the struggle for peace."

The document proposes that the government prepare for a new era in relations with the U.S. Congress, which will have many new members. They may not be qualified to assess the implications of vast arms sales to the Middle East, but they will be sympathetic to U.S. industries' and trade unions' hankering for jobs. The new legislators and the White House staff will be very knowledgeable about the Israeli-Palestinian aspect of the conflict because of its high media visibility, but less so about the Holocaust, the ravages of World War II, and the significance of the establishment of the State of Israel. The election of a Democratic president and a Congress with a Democratic majority "will divest Israel's supporters of the ability to exploit the differences with Capitol Hill." The latter will focus its criticism on the issue of human rights and on the Israeli economy. Consequently, the authors propose to speed up the implementation of economic reforms and to reach an understanding with the administration to keep the same level of military aid, "even at the expense of certain concessions with regard to civilian aid."

Sources close to Clinton believe the crisis in Yugoslavia might give the new administration food for thought concerning its position on self-determination for the Palestinian people. Nevertheless, the authors point out, "such thoughts will not entail a basic change in its perception about the need for a territorial solution. Except for nuances, the United States is expected to adhere to the same policy. Daily handling of various elements of the peace process will remain in the hands of 'professionals' who will keep the same jobs in the new administration. These professionals will express positions closer to the Arabs on the territorial aspect and closer to Israel with regard to the definition of the nature of peace." Having said that, the authors believe that "the president will have the final say on foreign affairs." Summing up this chapter, the document notes that "to the extent that the Arab side accepts the U.S. perception of peace, Israel might run into disagreements with the administration on the territorial issue."

The paper notes that past differences about the future of the territories and settlement policy "will continue to influence relations in the next few years," seeing that the distrust has spread to other areas, such as the transfer of technologies, and that the fallout of the Pollard and Dotan affairs has not yet settled. The authors recommend the establishment of a joint team which will try "to wipe the slate clean" of past rancor. "Despite the political affinities between the two governments this rancor is not expected to vanish overnight. The team proposes to use the positive atmosphere expected to reign after Clinton enters the White House to improve the relations of confidence with the administration's working levels."

The authors recommend that such relations be built from the outset with newly installed officials. Noting

that the purpose of the Israeli dialogue with administration officials is to explain the government's real limitations and to prevent crises, the authors single out Hillary Clinton and Vice President-elect Al Gore as prospective interlocutors, because they believe both will have a larger impact than previous first ladies or vice presidents.

The authors believe Israel will still need to seek the help of AIPAC [America Israeli Public Affairs Committee] since "it remains an important tool for strengthening and coordinating relations between the two countries." These Jewish activists are best suited to deal with the question of ethnic minorities, mainly Hispanics and Asians, who will be a major item on the agenda of new congressmen.

The document notes that "many Israeli decisionmakers are not familiar with the principles and values guiding U.S. foreign policy." Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who served as Israel's ambassador to the United States in the 1970's, "fancies himself an expert on U.S. affairs." However, the authors advise him to form a "small and effective team" made up of Foreign Ministry and other knowledgeable officials—a sort of brain trust or "situation room"—to ensure a more effective use of data pertaining to Israeli-U.S. relations.

Commentary Urges 'Advance Positioning' of U.S. Material

TA241216J892 Tel Aviv HAARETZ in Hebrew 24 Dec 92 p B1

[Commentary by Ze'ev Schiff: "New Deterrence for Israel"]

[Text] Washington—The Americans often speak of Israel's military superiority over Arab armies. Most experts testifying before Congress are fond of saying that Israel can beat any Arab military coalition. The greater the American desire to sell larger quantities of sophisticated weapons to the Arabs, the more often they emphasize this assessment. Yet the assessment was forged for foreign consumption. At home, among senior Pentagon experts, the prevalent view is entirely different. A pessimistic view, from Israel's angle, is taken of the balance of powers in the Middle East.

This assessment asserts that although Israel still has a military edge, this condition is temporary. The extensive arms sales to the Middle East will go on. In the future, Arab countries will have more sophisticated weapons, and Israel will find out that some Arab armies are becoming more sophisticated every year, that their capability to dramatically erode Israel's strength in a war is growing. If simultaneously the Arabs—including countries remote from Israel—continue procuring long-range missiles, the threat to Israel will grow. If an Arab country acquires nuclear weapons, the situation will be greatly exacerbated.

The Arabs do not necessarily have to resort to nuclear weapons to defeat Israel, but their possession of these

weapons will counterbalance Israel's nuclear capability. Thus, indirectly, Israel's conventional deterrent potential will become questionable. It will be eroded to a dangerous extent, and if no peace arrangement between Israel and most Arab countries is attained in the meantime, Israel will face perils it has never encountered before. The conclusion emerging from this concept is that Israel needs a different kind of deterrence, one that will be equal to the new threats looming over the horizon. While the existing deterrence did not do a bad job, it did not provide full security, as proven by the fact that wars broke out from time to time because the Arabs had no choice but to take the risk, as they did in 1973.

The new deterrence requires a different kind of Israeli-U.S. cooperation. Friends of Israel endorsing this approach say that the cooperation should advance to a new level—and they do not mean a defense pact between the two countries. Yet such cooperation will probably upset old doctrines and strategic tenets Israel embraced a long time ago.

Japan and Germany faced a similar problem vis-a-vis the Soviet Union in the past. They did not make do with their strength and the U.S. aid. At a certain point, they realized that to deter the Russians, they also needed an American presence in their countries. Israel has long adhered to the precept that it does not want American soldiers to shed blood for it. This concept was good for its standing with American public opinion.

According to this approach, what is needed this time is neither American soldiers nor American presence and intervention in Israel's routine security affairs; this should be categorically rejected. What should be requested is that the advance positioning of U.S. equipment be made for U.S. troops—say, for two divisions. Only a skeleton command—such as a reserve division—should be stationed here. The proponents say that the U.S. presence will deter Israel's enemies in a situation of growing and changing threats. In such a case, an attack on Israel will be seen as an attack on the U.S. Army.

According to this view, the new deterrence cannot be based on additional U.S. aid. Inflation and soaring weapon costs have greatly eroded this aid over the years, and it will be very difficult to augment or even maintain it at its present level. Other avenues, which had been successfully used to upgrade the aid, have also petered out. The difficulty with Israel's demands stems, among other causes, from their occasional clashes with the Pentagon's ordinary allocation method. It should be done in the framework of, and not outside, the system. It will be much easier if the allocation is made to the U.S. divisions' warehouses in Israel.

The new deterrence should be also based on new technologies that will enhance Israel's edge. The weapon sales to the Arabs will continue, but Israel will receive advanced technologies. The time factor of their receipt will be greatly responsible for the qualitative gap between Israel and the Arab countries. A more important

factor, however, is the need for Israeli-U.S. cooperation in military developments. The latter will benefit the United States as well. If Israel procrastinates, it will find that its defense industries have become barren due to a shortage of funds and markets. In this, too, Israel will have to change its approach. It will enjoy U.S. cooperation in advanced spheres, but it will have to stomach the fact that its defense industries will not be able to launch any development it fancies.

Israeli representatives have already been apprised of some of these views; Israel's immediate reaction tends to be suspicion. Others persistently view the cooperation between the two countries from the angle of what can be received immediately, to save money. These proposals cannot be rejected out of hand. The proponents are friends who are saying: You have to help us to help you reinforce the Israeli deterrence.

Commentary Asks Rabin for Policy Clarity

TA2512183802 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 25 Dec 92
p 15

[Commentary by David Pedatzur: "Screams to High Heaven and a Government at a Crossroads"]

[Excerpt] Last week, the government avoided making a clear-cut and unequivocal decision about the issue hovering over its head—whether to hold direct and open negotiations with PLO-Tunisi and agree to the establishment of a Palestinian state. Had Labor introduced a clause with a positive reply to these questions to its election platform, the Likud would have stayed in power.

Even before the deportations and the complications that followed, it was clear that a majority is forming in the government in favor of both. Meretz ministers talked about it openly. The oppressed Labor ministers echoed this, according to their associates and press reports, in "private discussions." The oppressed Labor ministers are now coming out of the closet, saying openly that which they had whispered in back rooms. The Meretz ministers are asking now for the second half of the equation—talks with the PLO as a reward for their support for the deportation of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members. Peace Now is now calling on its followers to stage a demonstration for the return of the deportees and for negotiations with the PLO, without demanding that the PLO stop violence and terror. If the government surrenders to the demonstrators, it will naturally not be "a surrender to the mob," or a "sorry populist decision," as the deportation was described by its opponents.

Up for decision now stand not only the two "no's" of the government—no to negotiations with the PLO, and no to a Palestinian state—but also the principle of territorial compromise. The way things seem and voices coming from the government sound, Rabin will find himself in a minority when the government is called upon to rule on these three issues. So far, they have been

the cornerstones of Rabin's policy, and now they are portrayed as obstacles to peace. The call to skip the transitional stage of negotiations with the Palestinians, and move on to negotiations with the PLO about a permanent arrangement—namely, a Palestinian state—has already been emphasized in the Labor Knesset faction, whose members largely support Meretz's opinion and ideology.

On this background it is possible to explain the questionable attempt to draw a distinction between the "rational, pragmatic, and moderate" PLO, which allegedly does not deal with terror, and Hamas. The situation in the territories clearly shows that Fatah played a part in half of the terror attacks carried out over the last year. How the government defines terror is a different issue: Is an intifadah with rocks, knives, axes, firebombs, and car torching not terror? What if all of these were perpetrated by Hamas? Would they also become a part of "a legitimate struggle against the occupation," with the Labor doves providing the justifications for them? Are all masked men and fugitives only Hamas members? Are all the casualties of intifadah, Israeli citizens and soldiers, victims of a "legitimate struggle" or of terror? Are shots and bombs the only form of terrorism? Because if they are not, what explanation could be given for the demonstrations Meretz youths staged to mark the fifth anniversary of the intifadah? Did they identify with a nonviolent civil disobedience as preached by Mahatma Gandhi?

After the murder of Neim Toledano, Hanan Ashrawi expressed no reservations about it. She only advised us not to create "good and bad Palestinians." According to her, there are disputes among the Palestinians about how to end the occupation, but "all the Palestinians are unanimous about the common goal of ending it." Fayal al-Husayni went even further when he said after the deportation: "Hamas is an important part of the national unity, and we are all at war with the same cruel enemy." Even if al-Husayni made his remarks because of the occupation, they express an identification with Hamas as well as an admission that the intifadah is terror through other means, being a part of "the same war," the wild and savage war waged by the Palestinian "national unity."

The eight rounds of talks with the Palestinians led to a single conclusion: What Israel is willing to give them is not enough for them. What they are demanding is by far more than Israel can and may give. Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin has claimed—to the HA'ARETZ political correspondent, as is his habit—that in the last round of the Washington peace talks, we were one day short of making real progress with the Syrians and the Palestinians, "but then, unfortunately, came the deportations which stopped the conclusion of the move." Now it is clear why, when speaking before the International Center for Peace in the Middle East last week, Beilin urged the board of trustees "to publicly oppose the sorry decision" on the deportations.

Why was the missing day the one on which the deportations were made, and not the one in which the Palestinians failed to show up to mark the fifth anniversary of the intifadah? This, however, is not the main thing. What is more important is just how this "real progress" is viewed by the Palestinian side. On the day Beilin made his remarks, Fayal al-Husayni stated that the offer for an agreed upon agenda is unacceptable because it is "a formula of eternalizing the occupation and blocking any possibility for the establishment of a Palestinian state."

But all of this will not help. If the government does not bring back the deportees and start negotiating with the PLO, it will be blamed for the termination of the Washington talks. This is a consensus shared by the media, intellectuals, academia, and artists. It is hard to recall when the media was so hostile to the government ever since the Lebanon war. Almost all the correspondents on political and territories affairs, columnists, and caricaturists came out raging against the deportation. The Hebrew dictionary was employed in a hysterical war of words against the government, and mainly against Meretz. No less hysterical was the manner in which the street was charged with subordinating the government. This was no longer a "leftist Mafia," this was a unanimous chorus, or a herd of independent individuals with their own idea about the matter. [passage omitted]

Still, even without the deportations, the government will be facing the need to make decisions on the eve of the ninth round of talks in Washington. The new circumstances only hasten and sharpen the decision. The government will not be able to avoid making unequivocal decisions for very much longer. It will have to decide for or against a dialogue with the PLO, and for or against a Palestinian state. Rabin will no longer be able to hold back the flood, now that the dam has been broken. It is hard for a divided or undecided government to stand against the opposition by the government, party, media, academia, and intellectuals which identify with a violent intifadah, viewing negotiations with the PLO and the establishment of a Palestinian state as the sole alternative to terror and war.

The prime minister is at a crossroad, and it is up to him to decide which way to turn. If he chooses the Meretz track, he will reach the Green Line; if he turns right toward Tsomet and the National Religious Party, he will be hitting a dead end. Had Tsomet joined the government when it was being set up, Labor would have been the center party, in between the left and the right, which won the voters' support due to its stands. Adding Tsomet to the government now will put an end to the peace process.

The prime minister must not abstain from making an unequivocal decision about the peace process right now. If the pre-state People's Council regarded itself authorized on 12 May 1948 to decide on making the Proclamation of Independence by a majority of two votes (six

(for, four against), the current government undoubtedly has the right and the authority to make far less decisive decisions.

If, contrary to the prime minister's stand, there is a majority in the current government favoring negotiations with the PLO and establishing a Palestinian state, he does not have an option to set up a right-wing or a national unity government. He has to call elections that

would decide on that which was not up for decision in the last elections. Labor Party voters did not vote for negotiations with the PLO, the establishment of a Palestinian state, and a return to the 1967 borders. If, however, the Meretz ministers and their allies in Labor find they do not have a majority, they had better draw the necessary conclusions and not behave as if simultaneously in the government and in opposition. They owe it to their voters. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister on Deportees, Peace Talks, Iraq
NC271211592 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in
Arabic: 1007 GMT 27 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 27 Dec (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—Our correspondent met with Jordanian Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir on the sidelines of the cordons states foreign ministers conference. The text of the interview follows:

[Correspondent] How do you view the recent Israeli deportation decision and its impact on Jordan? What would your government's stand have been if the deportees were sent to Jordan?

[Abu-Jabir] The deportation decision is another shock in the series of shocks it seems this nation is destined to sustain. In fact, these deportees are a microcosm of the Palestinian people who are still dispersed. Undoubtedly, this decision has had a negative effect on the peace process. The Jordanian side has been affected by this deportation because while for most countries the Palestinian issue is a foreign affair for Jordan it is both a foreign and an internal affair. The Jordanian people have been shocked by this deportation and it has had a great effect on the internal situation in Jordan. As for the Jordanian Government's stand on this deportation, I believe our position would have been similar to Lebanon's position, which is courageous and for which the Lebanese Government and people are to be thanked. The deportation order aims to empty the occupied territory of its Palestinian inhabitants. We reject this. We call for the return of these deportees because we are in the midst of a peace process that we do not want to see fail. [Correspondent] Do the results of the cordons state foreign ministers meeting satisfy the Arab demands, especially as there was earlier talk about suspending the Arab delegations' participation in the peace talks until the deportees are returned? Why has there been no linkage?

[Abu-Jabir] There is a linkage, but it has not taken the form of a tit-for-tat reaction. Rather, it takes into consideration the full panorama of events in the Middle East. We have taken into consideration the impact of the deportation decision on the peace process as a whole.

[Correspondent] Was the subject of the suspension of participation in the talks discussed? What is the Jordanian Government's stand on news agency reports that the talks will resume in February?

[Abu-Jabir] This matter was not brought up or discussed. I do not know when the new round of talks will start. There is a new U.S. Administration that will take office in January and deal with this issue. There is also Russia, the other cosponsor of the peace talks. According to my information, the date for the talks has not been set. We will cross that bridge when we come to it.

[Correspondent] Has a date been set for the next cordons states meeting? Where will it take place? Are there further Arab moves to deal with the situation?

[Abu-Jabir] No date has been set. The final statement of the foreign ministers meeting left this matter open for discussion and study by the ministers. If the need arises for another meeting in the near future, we will not hesitate. The meeting might take place before the start of the next round of talks and will be held in Damascus. As for Arab moves, we call for quick and urgent moves to deal with this problem. I believe the Arab foreign ministers will hold an emergency meeting at the Arab League, perhaps in the middle of next month.

[Correspondent] Several days ago, the leftist Meretz Party asked the Israeli Knesset to lift the ban on dealing with the PLO. What will the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation in the peace negotiations look like if the Knesset takes this step?

[Abu-Jabir] These are two different issues. Lifting the ban and dealing with the PLO is a matter that concerns the PLO's relationship with the Israelis. The composition of the joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation is another matter. I have an observation here, namely that right from the beginning, Jordan wanted the Palestinian delegation to be separate and independent. When we agreed to have a joint delegation, we did so out of our desire to help the Palestinian brothers participate in the peace process. If the outcome of lifting the ban on talking to and negotiating with the PLO means that there will be an independent Palestinian delegation, we welcome it. But we do not yet know how things will develop.

[Correspondent] Some believe that Jordan is the most enthusiastic among the Arab delegations to continue the peace process and the least enthusiastic about adopting stands against the constant Israeli intransigence. Others link this to the existence of specific progress on the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations front but not on the other fronts. What is your view?

[Abu-Jabir] I don't know if what you say is true or not. Jordan took part in the peace process just like the majority of the Arab countries, especially the cordons states involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict. We agreed to the peace process on the basis of UN Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, which concerns Lebanon. This is the secret of our enthusiasm for proceeding with the peace process.

As for the reports that there is specific progress on the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations front, it is in the interest of the other party to focus attention on this or that front from time to time and at certain stages. The other party focused attention in the past on the Lebanese front, stressing that there were no problems and that a solution was forthcoming, adding: The negotiations have made great strides forward. Then it focused attention on the Syrian front, saying: If we tackle the Syrian side, the problem will end. You should remember that when Syria presented the declaration of principles document, the other side said that the issue between Syria and Israel was almost over. The same goes for Jordan. But, quite simply and clearly, Jordan insists on a comprehensive

solution on all fronts and courses. What I want to tell you is that I believe that all the fronts are moving in one direction.

[Correspondent] But there are leaked reports and information that the demarcation of borders between Jordan and Israel has already begun. There is also a report that a survey of the border areas is being done from the air. How true are these reports?

[Abu-Jabir] These reports are absolutely baseless. This information is not true at all. Neither the process of the demarcation of borders nor anything of the sort has begun.

[Correspondent] Tehran has started to arm itself and is becoming a threat to the region. Some believe that a strong, united Iraq is what it takes to stand up to the Iranian threat. How do you view the Iranian expansion in the region? How can this be linked to reports that Iran is backing certain political and religious organizations in Jordan? And how do you view the threat of dividing Iraq?

[Abu-Jabir] I do not believe that upsetting the balance of power in the Middle East will serve the region. We cannot ignore the fact that Iraq is an influential and effective member of the Arab body. We support the unity of the Iraqi people and Iraq's territorial integrity and reject any threat to this unity. As for Iran, we are always careful to build our relations on mutual respect.

[Correspondent] It is no secret that Jordan stood by Iraq during the Gulf crisis. Then King Husayn recently attacked Saddam Husayn on more than one occasion and urged the Iraqi people to seek change and democracy. He once again changed his stand on Iraq. Some have expressed surprise at the dramatic shift in the ever-changing Jordanian stand. What do you think?

[Abu-Jabir] Jordan's policy in dealing with Arab brothers is based on noninterference in others' affairs, respect for sovereignty, and avoiding any act or words that might be interpreted as an incursion on the rights of other states. King Husayn's view is that the Arab situation is unhealthy; it is eroding from the inside and being gnawed from the outside. He believes that this situation must be tackled on two levels. On the external level, the Arab schism must be healed; he explained this in his speech when he called for setting up an Arab union and establishing some kind of communication to bring Arabs together to eventually achieve pan-Arab security. On the internal level, the king believes in the need for Arab communities to reconcile themselves.

[Correspondent] How true are reports that King Husayn secretly met three times with [former] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, and, does he have plans to meet with Rabin if progress is made in the peace negotiations?

[Abu-Jabir] This is not true; every now and then there are rumors here and there about a secret meeting

between King Husayn and an Israeli personality. King Husayn would have the courage to admit such a meeting if it took place. As for an expected meeting, no one can predict this. Who would have expected peace or diplomatic relations to be established between Egypt and Israel before 1975? Changes can happen in the future; views and visions may change. However, let us leave that until it happens; let us not jump ahead of events.

[Correspondent] The Jordanian parliament recently asked the king to reconcile with the Arab states that were angered by Jordan's backing for Iraq during the Gulf war. The Jordanian Government has not embarked on any step in this direction. What do you think of the call by United Arab Emirates President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan to turn a new leaf in inter-Arab relations?

[Abu-Jabir] Jordan has taken many steps, particularly at the Dakar and later conferences. We did not hesitate for a moment to reach out for reconciliation with Arab brothers. Unfortunately, it seems that the Gulf crisis still casts its shadows on the region; all are still suffering just like we are in Jordan. We are not accustomed to isolation. We do not want to isolate ourselves from others or make others feel that they are isolated from us. We welcome Shaykh Zayid's call and believe it is the beginning of a new chapter in Arab relations and will eventually lead to healing the schism and to reconciliation.

Resignations Threaten Islamic Front's Umbrella Role

PM9012115792 London AL-NAYAH in Arabic
28 Dec 92 p 1

[Report by correspondent Salamah Ni'mat]

[Text] Amman—Eleven founding members of the "Islamic Action Front" party yesterday submitted a mass resignation from the Front in protest at the Muslim Brotherhood movement's control of all important posts in the party's organizational structure—which could lead to the collapse of the Front as a broad umbrella for Islamic movements.

A source close to the Front said that 11 independent Islamists submitted a mass resignation after the Brotherhood movement took control of the constituent committee and executive bureau of the party, which obtained a license from the government two weeks ago.

The source pointed out that the resigning members include Justice Minister Yusuf al-Mubayyid and Municipal Affairs Minister 'Abd-al-Razzaq Tubayshat.

Well-informed sources have said that the mass resignation "is directly linked with the Brotherhood's tight control of the party during the Consultative Council elections."

It is worth noting that the Consultative Council comprises 120 members from the regions' representatives.

who are elected in accordance with proportional representation provided that the heads of the branches are Consultative Council members.

Independent parliamentary sources have said that the independent Islamists' mass resignation yesterday is "a declaration of the collapse of the Front as a broad umbrella for Islamic movements and its existence as a partisan movement and front for the Muslim Brotherhood."

As is known, leaders of the Islamic Action Front party have always been anxious not to link their party with the Brotherhood group or consider it a political front for this group.

Deputies Demand Withdrawal From Peace Talks

JN2412154992 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
24-25 Dec 92 pp 1, 2

[By Ayman al-Safadi]

[Excerpts] Amman—The government Wednesday came under fire from members of the Lower House of Parliament who demanded it immediately withdraw from the Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Angered by Israel's expulsion of 415 Palestinians from the Gaza Strip last week, leftist, pan-Arabist and Islamist deputies said the government should abandon what they described as the "surrender process" which, they said, is only serving the interests of the Jewish state.

Claiming that the government had signed a "no" memorandum of understanding with Israel without informing the House or the people, independent Deputy Husayn Mujalli demanded that the House hold a special session to discuss "this dangerous situation that relates to the future of the nation." [quotation marks as published]

Minister of Education and Deputy Prime Minister Dhuqan al-Hindawi categorically denied that Jordan had signed such a memorandum, but provoked an angry response from the House when he mistakenly said Parliament has sanctioned Jordan's participation in the peace process.

"The House did not and will not endorse the negotiations" with Israel, spokesman of the Muslim brotherhood 'Abdallah al-Akayilah responded, demanding that the minister's statement be erased from the House's records.

"In fact, the House has decided against entering the talks and Jordan must immediately withdraw from them because they amount to surrender," Dr. al-Akayilah said.

"The deputy probably means the agenda for the talks by the memorandum of understanding," Mr. al-Hindawi told the House after Mr. Mujalli made his charge, and

emphasized that Jordan had some serious reservations about the agenda which the government had not yet signed.

Jordan and Israel reached a preliminary agreement on a draft agenda for their talks in the seventh round of the peace talks which took place in Washington in August. The document was severely criticized by several political groups and Jordanian negotiators and later they were seeking amendments to some of its articles.

Mr. al-Hindawi said it was natural for Jordan and Israel to discuss an agenda for their talks.

Leftist Deputy Bassam Haddadin rejected the minister's assurances and demanded explanations for statements by chief Jordanian negotiator 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali who, he said, announced that Jordan and Israel had reached a preliminary agreement.

"Where is the government when he (Dr. al-Majali) says that and who authorizes him to make such statements," Mr. Haddadin said, demanding a freeze of the peace negotiations until the expelled Palestinians are returned to their homes.

Deputies also criticized Lebanon for not allowing aid supplies to reach the Palestinians and they reproached the Jordanian government for banning demonstrations expressing support for the evictees.

Brotherhood Deputy Muhammad al-Haj urged the government to call for a meeting of Arab and Muslim foreign ministers to discuss the evictees' problem.

Former Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri said the House had taken appropriate measures to rally support for the evictees, pointing out that the House had called for an emergency meeting of the Arab Parliamentary Union.

Some deputies proposed that a delegation visit the Palestinians in their camp in South Lebanon but Mr. al-Masri explained that the Lebanese government had refused entry to public delegations which wanted to visit the group on the "acceptable grounds" that such a move will suggest that the expelled Palestinians had become a Lebanese responsibility.

"That is why no aid supplies or delegations were dispatched to the expelled Palestinians," Mr. al-Masri said.

Other deputies, however, said that while they understand the Lebanese government's decision not to assume responsibility for the Palestinians, they believed that food and other supplies should be provided to them.

"What is happening in Lebanon is a testimony to the impotence of the Arabs and the conspiracy of the international community," Islamist Deputy 'Ali al-Fagr said, adding that the Palestinians were expelled because they represent a political trend that opposes the "surrender process."

Member of the Democratic Alliance Bloc Husni al-Shayyab criticised the government for banning demonstrations in support of the Palestinians but Minister of Interior Jawdat al-Sabul said the government only prohibited marches that could have posed a threat to foreign diplomatic missions in the country.

He said his ministry had given instructions to governors to study applications for organising demonstrations each on its own merit, adding that the government has not banned any "disciplined and well-arranged march."

During the heated debates that started towards the end of the session, deputies expressed dissatisfaction with measures taken by Arab countries against the Israeli expulsion and warned that the eviction of the Palestinians was part of Israel's policy of "transfer."

Mr. al-Faqir said a meeting of the foreign ministers of Jordan, Egypt, Syrian, Lebanon and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) that begins in Cairo Thursday was "not enough."

"The Arabs," he said, "should abandon the peace process and arms should be sent to the expelled Palestinians so that they can launch a suicidal attack against Israel and impose a fait accompli on it."

The House then entrusted its Foreign Affairs Committee with studying the situation and preparing a report on it. [passage omitted]

Editorial Reacts to U.S. Downing of Iraqi Aircraft

JN2612115092 Amman AL-RAY in Arabic 29 Dec 92 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "Late Heronism"]

[Text] The flying of an Iraqi aircraft within Iraqi airspace and over Iraqi territory can be neither a violation of nor an insult to international legitimacy. Moreover, the downing of such an aircraft is neither implementation of international legitimacy nor practical commitment by the alliance forces to their resolutions.

The reaction to the downing of the Iraqi aircraft is surprising. Before leaving for Texas to hunt quail, President Bush said: We are not threatening anyone, but we should impose respect for UN resolutions. President-elect Clinton affirmed Washington's determination to impose respect for these resolutions. French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas said: It is not enough to issue resolutions on an international level. We should impose respect for these resolutions. In clear French, Dumas added: Iraq committed a violation and was punished for that. The U.S. State Department announced: The U.S. and alliance forces are still on the alert and are ready to impose respect for UN resolutions.

As claimed, the shooting down of the Iraqi aircraft is in implementation of UN Resolution 688 issued last August, which bans Iraqis from flying their aircraft over part of their homeland. Less than four months later, the

UN Security Council issued Resolution 799, which calls on Israel to return the Palestinian deportees to their homeland. Israel showed no respect for this or any previous resolution issued by the UN Security Council. However, no one thought to punish it or stress determination to implement UN resolutions as stated by President Bush, President-elect Clinton, Dumas, the State Department in Washington, and the rest of the alliance capitals.

Many aircraft banned from flying over Bosnia-Herzegovina are continuing to do so, killing and destroying, yet no one in the West is making threats or claiming love for international legitimacy and anger over any violation of or contempt toward it.

This double standard in dealing with this disgusting hypocrisy should be ended. This is not done by stopping the downing of Iraqi aircraft, lifting the siege on Iraqi children, or allowing milk to get to them. It is done by stopping the talk about respect for and commitment to the principles and resolutions of international legitimacy. The West is concerned—although we are not sure how true this is—about the Palestinian deportees' need for food to resist starvation, woollen clothes to resist the cold, and medicine to treat their injuries and illnesses. However, the return of those deportees does not at all stir these Western politicians. This issue does not make them refer to UN Resolution 799 and to the need to respect it, because as Mr. Bush, Mr. Clinton, and Mr. Dumas said: International resolutions cannot simply be issued; they should be implemented by force.

REUTERS cited French Television, Channel 2, as saying that Roland Dumas said verbatim: It is not possible to leave men exposed to snow, disease, cold weather, and starvation, claiming that some country deported them and another country should take them in. We note here that, in the French minister's opinion, Israel's share of the crime of deportation is neither more nor less than Lebanon's share. The minister also added: The crisis of those deportees contributes to entrenching Islamic fundamentalist feelings and could cause great disturbance to the Islamic world.

The question is: Is it true that the suffering of the Palestinian deportees disturbs and stirs only Muslims? The answer is definitely no, because the suffering of any human being stirs the feelings and sentiments of all human beings, with the exception of those parties who are the cause of this suffering. It is certain that all the Christians of the world are following the crisis of the deportees with sadness, sorrow, and anger.

Negotiators Urged To Use Hamas' 'Heroic Operation'

JN2612115092 Amman AL-RIBAT in Arabic 29-29 Dec 92 p 1

[Editorial: "You Win, O Hamas"]

[Text] It was a bright, enthusiastic day when it became possible for Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, to extend its military blows and operations to more than one place, reaching Lod and Yaffo—the land which the Jews and those Palestinians negotiating with them recognized and acknowledged as indisputably Jewish territory.

It is a steady, programmed progress for the blessed Palestinian intifadah to escalate. This intifadah reached the Jewish army soldiers, kidnapping one of them and taking him where ever it wanted so it could negotiate over him and implement its conditions. It killed him after the Jews refused to release Shaykh Ahmad Yassin, head of the movement, who is held in the occupation prisons.

This Palestinian, Arab, Islamic glowing heroism is demonstrated by youths who believe in their God and in their cause and who sincerely seek martyrdom or victory. They are youths whose deeds precede their words. They are the ones who do not seek compliments or praise. They want to undermine, disturb and resist their enemy to prevent it from enjoying peace of mind on their land.

This militant escalation comes at a time when those who are frightened from and fail to join the jihad rejoiced and thought that someday peace will be achieved with the Jewish enemy in those consecutive rounds and that the intifadah no longer makes headlines, is outside the nature of things, and that its end is inevitable since the negotiations are the solution and there is no chance for games, imaginations, and obstruction of efforts.

Through a language of force, preparedness, and martyrdom, Hamas says: Regardless of the worldwide Jews you have prepared and collected and despite your acts of killing, imprisonment, eviction, demolition, terrorism, and torture, you, in our opinion, are still aggressive occupiers and you will never enjoy peace of mind in Jerusalem, Gaza, Yaffo, Nabulus, Jericho, and Rafah. There is nothing between war and the kindness of the land except war.

To the desperate, the negotiators, and the ones who enjoy earthly rewards, Hamas says: You are deluded and wrong. You will never obtain anything from your enemy even if you go to the edge of the world and reach the 50th round. If you say that the negotiations are the solution, we say jihad is the solution. It is strange that some pale, suspicious, and negotiating Palestinian faces condemned Hamas' heroic operation, the last of which is the kidnapping and killing of that Jewish soldier, while the land of Palestine rejoiced and the Palestinians, Arabs, and Muslims held their heads high everywhere.

O you weak people. You fear the consequences of killing one Jewish soldier while the enemies killed six martyrs in a single day. The enemies kill daily and you are afraid that the negotiations will stop. Why do you not stop these negotiations yourselves and by your own choice? Why do you not pack up and return to your homes? This is better for you.

On the other hand, Why do you not use Hamas' victories to serve and reinforce your negotiations? Why do you not consider these victories as a means to strengthen your stand at the negotiations which we consider as your own logic? In Hamas' logic, jihad is the solution. The children of Palestine continue to say: In Jerusalem, the issue has spoken. No conference, no conference, I only want to live.

O negotiators, be proud of the accomplishments of the Palestinian people and do not be ashamed of them when you make your statements in Washington. Do not deny the courage of the courageous and do not be so timid. The sons of Hamas killed a Jewish soldier. The Jews killed more of your people. Take these heroic acts made ready by those who you think are your enemies and use them, if you can, in your negotiations. Do not disappoint Hamas—the rising heroic image—even if it was not of your religion.

Those who denounced the kidnapping and killing operation are not from the Arab negotiating delegation, but they are from the Palestinian delegation. Is this not strange and detestable?

O you 400 bright stars who were departed from Palestine. O you great model and people of the elite, you are leading the nation and making history. We remind you of what you know and believe in through God Almighty's saying: "If you are suffering hardships, they are suffering similar hardships; but you have hope from God, while they have none." [part of a Koranic verse]

Lower House Endorses Draft Law on Press

JN2812062192 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
28 Dec 92 p 1

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Ayman al-Safadi]

[Text] Amman—The Lower House of Parliament Sunday endorsed the draft press and publication law despite a general perception that the legislation will stifle the freedom of the press in the country.

"Parliament approved an oppressive law at a time when it should have been working for broadening freedoms," Deputy 'Abd-al-Karim al-Daghmi (al-Mafrag) told the Jordan Times at the end of the three-and-a-half-hour session.

The House voted on the law in its entirety after accepting the unconstitutionality of putting already-approved articles to new vote against the recommendation of its Judiciary Committee.

In a report to the House, the Judiciary Committee said it was legal for the House to reconsider articles already voted on but the ministers of justice and parliamentary affairs and other deputies asserted the debate would be unconstitutional.

Citing Article 45 of the House's internal regulations, Minister of Justice Yusuf al-Muhyeyidin said the House

"will be committing a major violation of the Constitution if it puts to vote already approved articles."

Judiciary Committee Chairman Salim al-Zu'bi (al-Ramtha) countered the minister's argument but the House eventually decided to end debate of the draft law and vote on it in its entirety.

Eleven deputies supported a motion to reject the draft law while 33 out of 61 voted in favour of endorsing the legislation; fourteen abstained.

"We were bogged down in a legal deadlock," Amman Deputy and former Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri told the *Jordan Times Sunday*. He said the majority of deputies supported a new vote on some of the controversial articles of the law but this was not legally possible.

The controversial articles are Article Five, which forces journalists to reveal their sources of information in a court of law, Article Two, which restricts recognition as journalists to members of the Jordan Press Association, and Article 42, which bans coverage of a wide range of economic, political and social issues.

The draft legislation was severely criticized by journalists as a setback to the democratic reforms initiated in the Kingdom three years ago. Journalists and other opponents of the draft legislation said the law would deny the press its role in a pluralistic society and curb its ability to report freely on issues of public interests.

A press campaign against the draft legislation last week reportedly prompted a change in some deputies' stand, but hopes that the House would reconsider its position were dashed Saturday when a meeting of parliamentary blocs failed to reach agreement on certain articles in the law.

Before endorsing the draft law, the House voted to abolish Article 52, which spells out penalties against journalists who violate articles 42 and 53, and 56, which prescribes punishment for violators of other provisions of the draft law. The House endorsed articles 54, 56, and 57 which also specify punishments.

The House's endorsement of the legislation was seen by observers as a victory for the government whose supporters in the House presented fierce arguments against reexamining already approved articles.

The draft law, which deputy Mansur Murad (Amman) described as "harmful to national interests," will now be referred to the Upper House of Parliament (Senate), which has the right to reject it or amend it and refer it back to the House or endorse it and send it to His Majesty King Husayn for ratification. The King has the constitutional right to veto the draft legislation.

While Mr. al-Masri expected the Senate to vote down the draft legislation, Mr. al-Zu'bi saw little chances for that and reiterated that the draft legislation was an improvement upon its predecessor.

The draft law as approved by the House is "a punishment not freedoms law," said Mr. al-Dughmi, who expected the Senate to turn it down.

But according to Mr. al-Dughmi, the House will only be able to readdress articles amended or rejected by the Upper House if it sends back the draft legislation, "which fails to protect us from the government."

Move Termed 'Blunder'

JN2812062892 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
28 Dec 92 p 4

[Editorial: "Black Day for the Press"]

[Text] Dec. 27, 1992 will go down in Jordanian journalists' record books as the day on which their cause and that of the freedom of expression took a heavy blow. The press and publications law that was passed by Parliament yesterday is not only an obstacle to democracy and press in an otherwise budding and promising democratization process. Its passage is also a sign that the eleventh parliament has not come of age even after three years in session.

Of all the unacceptable articles in the draft law the one that forces journalists to reveal their sources of information in a court of law stands out as the most critical and dangerous. Unless amended by the Upper House or rejected by His Majesty the King Article 5 will contravene the spirit and letter of our democratic march and retard the cause of the profession for a long time to come. Its application would also dangerously defeat the very purpose which it supposedly was formed to serve. It goes without saying that without protecting the sources of critically needed information, truth will never see the light of day.

It is in fact no consolation that the revelation of the names of sources would be compulsory only in a court of law. The fact that sources of information risk being exposed in any forum would simply erase their willingness to blow the whistle of any grave errors or misjudgement that may have been committed or passed. The government can always rebut any information revealed by the mass media if it feels that it is inaccurate. Furthermore, the government does not need to know the source to perform such a necessary task.

It is conceded that not all information or data received from confidential sources are absolutely correct. But as long as the concerned authorities have an opportunity to deny the accuracy of any information obtained from sources that prefer to remain anonymous, then there would be very little damage if the secrecy of the source is to be maintained.

Obviously, we speak in this context in relative terms. There is always a risk that some people would deliberately want to confuse the public or to spread false rumours, something that could undermine state security and stability. In this sense, however, it is basically the

function and duty of reporters and editors to verify the information received from any source, be it secret or otherwise.

These are the dictates of the profession after all. On balance, then, the risk of stifling relevant information by keeping Article 5 in the country's law books outweighs any benefit that many accrue from retaining it as is.

The fact that Parliament seemed for a moment ready to reexamine the draft law was a hopeful sign. Now that even that small effort was not exerted, for whatever legal reason or otherwise, the House has passed up an opportunity to assert itself as an essential fighting force for democracy and progress in Jordan. For the blunder that the House has committed, it deserves no thanks.

Paper Says U.S. Embassy Interferes in Bank Affairs

JN2412113292 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic
24 Dec 92 pp 1, 18

[Excerpt] The United States, through its embassies in the Middle East and its intelligence organs deployed in all locations and at all levels, continues to monitor activities and moves which could lead to supplying Iraq with any material, be it medicine or foodstuffs. For some time now, the U.S. Embassy has been closely watching Jordanian bank transactions regarding the documentary

credits they open in Jordan and abroad. Some banks have noticed this interference in the many queries submitted by foreign industrial, commercial, and financial institutions and companies. These institutions and companies have repeatedly asked the banks for detailed information about some commercial transactions as the United States is closely monitoring these transactions.

Jordanian banking sources have said that Jordanian banks have repeatedly received signs from the U.S. Embassy and they condemn such actions, viewing them as blatant interference in their affairs and a violation of their freedom of action. [passage omitted]

Exports to Iraq Monitored

JN2412133292 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic
24 Dec 92 p 3

[Text] The U.S. ambassador in Amman continues his inspection tours of Jordanian industrial plants to see whether these plants export their products to Iraq. So far, the U.S. ambassador has visited 54 Jordanian plants. Four of these plants suffered heavy damage from fires—which when they broke out were considered to be acts of God.

The U.S. ambassador has visited several industrial plants in the northern part of the kingdom, familiarizing himself with their products and how they are managed.

More on Government Stance on Situation of Deportees

Deportee Spokesman Comments

NC2912183292 Paris AFP in English 1520 GMT
29 Dec 92

[Excerpts] Marj al-Zuhur, Lebanon, Dec 29 (AFP)—Palestinian deportees on Tuesday urged the United Nations to implement a resolution ordering their return home to the Israeli-occupied territories.

The 415 deportees said they would send their demand to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali with UN envoy James Jonah, who was due to arrive at the deportees' camp in no-man's land in Lebanon later Tuesday. [passage omitted]

Deportee spokesman 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi read the message for Butrus-Ghali, saying:

"We would like international bodies, especially the United Nations, to address and apply the five following demands:

"We are against using double standards with Israel. We would like to put Resolution 799 into action. Are you waiting to see our dead bodies? We need enough pressure on Israel so as to respond positively to international laws and regulations."

Resolution 799, adopted December 18, condemned the deportations and ordered Israel to take the deportees back. Jonah arrived in the region Sunday in an unsuccessful bid so far to persuade Israel to comply.

"We will stay here in this no-man's land close to our homeland until we are allowed a safe passage to our families," he added.

"Our situation is deteriorating rapidly in terms of medicine, food and water. It is the responsibility of the UN Security Council and of all the governments of the world to put pressure on Israel to reverse its violation of our human rights and dignity," he added, reading from the message. [passage omitted]

Chamber Recommends Arab Summit

NC2912184492 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1643 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Text] The Chamber of Deputies today passed a recommendation asking the government to call for an Arab summit conference of the cordon states [Lebanon, Egypt, Syria, Jordan, and Palestine] to discuss the deportees case—without naming a venue for the meeting—based on Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri's proposal.

Speaker Nabih Birri, who read out the recommendation, expressed Lebanon's readiness to host the conference. The recommendation came in response to requests from several deputies who discussed the deportees issue in papers they put forth at the beginning of the session.

They called for adopting an Arab stand on the issue by convening an expanded Arab summit.

Foreign Minister Faris Bawayz, who is in Paris, has contacted French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas and discussed with him the deportees issue and the outcome of the recent meeting of the cordon states' foreign ministers.

UN Envoy Departs

NC2912174592 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1655 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Text] The UN envoy [James Jonah] left Beirut for al-Naqurah this evening after holding talks with President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Speaker Nabih Birri, and Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri.

Jonah will return to Israel through al-Naqurah, and then will go on to New York to submit a report to the UN secretary general on the outcome of his missions in Tel Aviv and Beirut.

Although the UN envoy made no statement about his talks, Presidential Office sources said President al-Hirawi informed the UN envoy of Lebanon's firm and final decision that there is no way to deal with the deportees issue by going through the territories under Lebanon's sovereignty. If the envoy wants to visit the deportees, the visit may take place through Israel, the sources added.

Position 'Final'

NC3012081192 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has called on the international community to pressure Israel into resolving the question of the Palestinian deportees. He affirmed that Lebanon cannot back down on its stand.

In an interview with AFP, al-Hariri said: The entire world must focus on Israel, not Lebanon, because we cannot act otherwise. After years of war, we are now trying to establish a strong central government. If we retreat today, we will endanger everything.

Al-Hariri has accused the enemy government of trying to give the impression that the land on which the 415 Palestinians have been besieged for 12 days is a buffer zone under Lebanese responsibility, which is unacceptable.

Explaining Lebanon's decision not to allow the transit via territories controlled by the Lebanese Army of any humanitarian aid, particularly the French medical team Paris would like to send immediately to the area, al-Hariri said: This is not due to a refusal, but because it is an impossible thing for us to accept. He added: The Lebanese position is final; we would like very much to coordinate with the United Nations, but we cannot do so for reasons related to independence and sovereignty. I

have explained this situation to James Jonah, the UN secretary general's special envoy.

Asked about the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies' recommendation to hold an emergency Arab summit to look into the matter, the prime minister said that contacts must be made with the Arab capitals to arrange such a meeting.

No Supplies Allowed

NC3012094092 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900
GMT 30 Dec 92

[Statement issued by the Defense Ministry in Beirut 30 December]

[Text] Israeli radio today carried a report stating that the Lebanese Government has agreed to allow the entry of food supplies to the deportees via the areas that are under its control.

The Defense Ministry categorically dismisses this report and reiterates the Lebanese Government's firm stand in this regard, namely the liberated Lebanese territory should not be used as a gateway for dealing with the Palestinian deportees issue.

Deportees Reject Transfer

NC3012105292 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015
GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] The Palestinian deportees today rejected any proposal to transfer them to any European country and called for sanctions against Israel to force it to implement Security Council Resolution 799.

Commenting on Israel's decision to bring back 10 deportees who were mistakenly expelled, the spokesman for the deportees, Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, said: The final decision rests with these deportees. He said that the mistake admitted by Israel shows that the expulsion had been done at random. He added: The Israeli measure is a clear retreat to save face, and I expect it to be followed by further retreats on the part of Yitzhaq Rabin.

Defense Minister Comments

NC3012145292 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215
GMT 30 Dec 92

[Telephone interview with Defense Minister Mubain Dallul by an unidentified correspondent on 30 December; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Your Excellency Mr. Defense Minister, Israeli radio has cited government sources as saying that Lebanon has agreed to allow humanitarian aid to pass through Lebanese territory to the Palestinian deportees. What is your reaction to this report?

[Dallul] This report is absolutely false. We have issued an unequivocal denial of this report. We refused to respond favorably to the contacts made with us, because

the issue pertains to our sovereignty and independence. It is impossible for us to retreat from our position. Israel is the cause of the problem, and it must take care of it by returning the deportees to their homes. What it did was grave. It exceeds even the methods of fascism and Nazism. We cannot allow our sovereignty and independence to be undermined. These are their citizens, and they must take care of them. They can bring them to trial according to the laws they enforce, but they must not throw them out like this into the open without any conscience or human deterrent. If it cares about humanity, why did it render them homeless in this manner, which no logic, conscience, or justice can accept?

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, UN envoy Jonah's meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin ended a short while ago. Rabin reiterated his country's position. Do you expect Jonah to return to Beirut following this visit to Israel?

[Dallul] We have nothing to say other than what we said before. We are not prepared to retreat from our position, because the matter affects our sovereignty and country. We cannot be lenient on this matter. We have expressed our opinion, and the United Nations must implement the UN Security Council resolution that calls on Israel to take the deportees back to their homes and work. Instead of pressuring us on humanitarian issues, they must pressure Israel to implement the UN Security Council resolution.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, there is talk about contacts with a third country, which could be a European country, to host the deportees for two years, the period for which Israel expelled them. Do you have information on this matter?

[Dallul] No we do not. We are not involved in such matters. This issue is of no concern to us. Let Israel take them back, and then it can do what it likes. No one will be able to move here, through our liberated land.

[Correspondent] In a statement today, the chairman of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) criticized the Lebanese and Israeli Governments for their humanitarian position toward the deportees. What is your comment on this?

[Dallul] There is something more important than the humanitarian position. It is the position that pertains to the homeland. Why is he using humanitarian issues and forgetting the national issues? There is an issue of a homeland. He is trying to overcome Israel's intransigent position. Why did Israel deport these people? Why did it throw them into this place? This is the issue that he must ask about. Why is he criticizing us over humanitarian issues? Can we be lenient because of humanitarian matters at the expense of our homeland, sovereignty, and independence? I think that if we did, he himself would no longer respect us or respect our sovereignty and independence. We are insisting on our position whatever the consequences may be.

Birri Says French, U.S. Arms Deals To Be Investigated

NC3012150192 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Excerpt] President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri reviewed topical domestic issues during their regular weekly meeting this afternoon. Speaking after the meeting, Birri said:

[Begin Birri recording] I would like to wish all media personnel a happy new year. My visit to his excellency the president was routine but useful. There has been an emergency session of the Chamber of Deputies [words indistinct] a decree was signed on 1 January [as heard] calling on the Chamber of Deputies to hold a general session on Tuesday, 5 January.

I reviewed the security situation and the social and economic situation with the president. I would like to state here that the second republic is not merely responsible for improving government services, but for changing the way of doing things. For example, embezzlement, theft, graft, or anything impeding the restoration of public confidence in government institutions will no longer go unpunished.

You have certainly heard or read that the Chamber of Deputies has formed an investigating committee to examine the French arms deal. This committee will be different from previous ones. Its findings will be examined by a specialized court; presidents and ministers will be tried if necessary and a ruling will be passed in this regard.

The issue of French weapons will open the issue of the arms deal with the Americans. Therefore, we cannot ignore anything because our information is that in the American deal the money that was paid was greater than what was received in terms of weapons, munitions, and equipment.

As we brace ourselves to establish security in every part of Lebanon and crack down on crime, I would like to say that the institutions are performing their tasks of bringing social security and confidence to the citizens and that we may state for a fact that we are establishing the second republic. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Army Completes Deployment in Southern Suburb

NC2912070492 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Excerpts] The southern suburb woke up this morning to the noise of Lebanese Army vehicles. The Army's deployment began at 0400 [0200 GMT] without any incidents or obstacles and ended at 0500 [0300 GMT]. Army soldiers and vehicles deployed at crossroads, in the streets and quarters, and in the areas of al-Ghubayrah, al-Shiyah, Harat Hurayk, B'r al-'Abd, Burj al-Barajinah,

al-Ruways, al-Mursiyah and up to Hayy al-Sallum, al-Shuwayfat, Khaldah, Masjid al-Rasal al-'Azam, and al-Maramil.

The deployed units came from all of the Army's brigades—the majority from the First and Third Regiments—and were backed by tanks and vehicles. They used all points of entry to enter the suburb: Galerie Sim'an, al-Hadath, al-'Amrasiyah, al-Shuwayfat, Hayy al-Sallum, Khaldah, al-Awaa'i, the airport road, and al-Tayyusah.

An estimated 2,000 soldiers participated in the deployment. Units started to stage foot and mobile patrols.

Security sources said that the Army's deployment will be extensive in all parts of the suburb and that the Syrian Arab forces will remain ready to support the Lebanese Army if needed.

The national news agency, which covered the Lebanese Army's deployment in the suburb it evacuated some time ago to undertake certain missions in the south, reported that Army forces deployed all over the suburb, particularly in positions that were manned by the Syrian Arab forces and in other positions in accordance with the drawn up plan.

Deployment was quick and executed in secret, amid a positive response from all local parties. The deployed Lebanese Army forces now are staging foot and mobile patrols and setting up roadblocks. [passage omitted]

Hizballah welcomed the deployment, and its secretary general, Hasan Naarallah, said: We have no problem with the Army's deployment. He affirmed that the party always supports the principle of having the state undertake responsibility for maintaining security in the area. [passage omitted]

To sum up, Army foot and mobile patrols are patrolling the streets and quarters of the southern suburb, where life is proceeding normally. Army units completed their deployment successfully according to plan. The latest reports said that Army units completed the deployment at 0500 today in the areas of al-Jinah circle, Khaldah, al-Shuwayfat, al-Hadath, and the old Sidon road. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Deputy Welcomes Move

NC2912073492 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Interview with Hizballah Deputy 'Ali 'Ammar by unidentified correspondent on 29 December; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] The contacts between the government and Hizballah that preceded the Army deployment in the southern suburb were described as successful. Through its secretary general, Hizballah yesterday welcomed the operation, and the Lebanese

Army's deployment today was successful. How does Deputy 'Ali 'Ammar assess the situation?

[Ammar] There was no objection to the presence of the Lebanese Army in the southern suburb, because we regard the suburb as an indivisible part of Lebanon. The suburb is the most enthusiastic among all the Lebanese areas for the peaceful course, especially at this stage. Recent reports by certain media organs about the southern suburb were the complete opposite of reality. We welcomed this measure from the start and continue to welcome the presence of the Lebanese Army with us, because this Army consists of our sons and people and now constitutes a national body that we hope will get stronger and stronger.

[Correspondent] Why was the deployment delayed until today and not executed at the same time as the deployment in greater Beirut, for example?

[Ammar] The decision belonged to the Army command and the political decisionmakers, not to the southern suburb or those concerned with it. The Army deployed there in the past but later withdrew for technical reasons concerned with the situation in the south. Apparently, the Army now has the ability to strengthen its presence.

[Correspondent] You spoke about the south. What if the government asks Hizballah to deploy the Army in the southern and al-Biqā' areas?

[Ammar] The Army is already present in the south and al-Biqā'. On the contrary, we hope that the bold political decision will be taken to deploy the Army along the resistance lines with the Israeli enemy and to complete its deployment in the occupied areas.

[Correspondent] Have Hizballah's centers in the southern suburb been completely closed?

[Ammar] Hizballah has no military centers in the southern suburb. There are only certain social offices that serve the people.

Defense Minister Comments

NC291214792 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Text] Defense Minister Muhsin Dallal today praised the Army deployment and the assistance offered by the Syrian forces. He said: Our assessment of the deployment is very positive. The Army succeeded in completing the deployment in a surprisingly short time. All of the concerned sides have cooperated and facilitated the Army deployment. The deployment is an accomplishment that will greatly boost the security situation in Lebanon, the minister stated.

Dallal added: The deployment in the suburb was not the goal but rather a part of a plan aiming to consolidate

security in the entire country. Personal safety and military security are essential for social and economic welfare. We see what happened at dawn today as a great achievement, Dallal said.

The Army succeeded in accomplishing the tasks assigned to it with speed, precision, and discipline. Brotherly Syrian forces assisted the Army and we thank these forces for their assistance. Concerned sides in the suburb provided assistance to the deployment, approved of it, and saw it as a service of great benefit to the public, Dallal concluded.

Hizballah Radio Commentary

NC3012101492 Ba'Labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Station political commentary: "The Security Deployment in the Suburb"]

[Text] Troops from the Lebanese Army deployed in Beirut's southern suburb this morning [as heard] to implement, or rather continue, an earlier decision. This deployment is not new, because Army personnel deployed before, and then pulled out to undertake missions in other regions. There is no political or even security problem in the suburb. Preparations for the new deployment were accompanied by remarks on the existence of security spots, excises, a state within a state, or a state beyond the control of the state, but they were all part of a despicable and unjustified instigation.

Talk about excises and hideouts is also out of place. The suburb is one of the most secure and stable areas, even compared to those areas where the Army and internal security troops are deployed. This is a fact that we can certify, and we call on those who believe otherwise to review the internal security forces' reports on the matter to prove that prior to the Army deployment, the suburb was not a scene of crime or abnormal practices. If certain gunmen did exist, this was related to the question of resistance and confrontation with the enemy, which is not over. People cannot be asked to drop their weapons at a time when Israel continues to occupy our territory, plan our murder, and assassinate our leaders. The latest example was the abortive attempt to assassinate Hizballah Secretary General His Eminence al-Sayyid Hassan Nasrallah.

Thus, there is no abnormal situation in the suburb and nobody there rejects the Army's entry, but the question is: Why the incitement against the suburb by certain people in power? Do they want to create imaginary heroism again? The Army did not leave the suburb in the first place to return to it. It is all a matter of technical measures that concerns the military leadership alone, which beefs up its presence at one time and reduces it at another. The principle is there, however, and there is absolutely no problem about it.

The suburb is part of this homeland and never was an outlawed region. The suburb is a reservoir of resistance

defending the country so that other parts of it may not be lost. If the incitement is in response to the suburb inhabitants' stand regarding the real estate company, we regret to see the authority, or certain people in it, resort to such a method or logic to handle things. Rejection of the real estate company or parts of it that involve certain worries or the relocation of residents are not linked to any abnormal situation and does not mean an adherence to any abnormal situation, if such a situation existed.

The rejection of the company was and will be a right defended by individuals and political forces that embrace and reflect this presence [sentence as heard]. The people's right does not lapse just because this stand is a form of opposition against authority, because opposition is not a clownish act but a well-calculated activity that seeks to correct the mistakes whenever they occur. This does not mean that if the authority is correct the opposition will not appreciate it and highlight the positive points. We have said before and continue to say that one of the main problems we have is the prevailing factional mentality, favoritism, and profiteering mentality that the rulers and officials have. We have affirmed that Lebanon needs leaders—ascetic leaders who have no greed or fear, ones who place money under their feet and power behind their back—who rise above narrow profits. Those alone could build a sound and solid Lebanon. This is the right for those who want to make a homeland. As for those who believe in selfishness and advance the logic that each era has its own men, they could drop out at the middle or even the beginning of the road, which is what we absolutely do not want. This is particularly so because our homeland is tired of the experiments and shocks, even if political. We are most ready to be positive, but give us proof that what is occurring seeks to lay down sound foundations, not another cycle of exploitation.

Nasrallah Says Suburb Target of 'Gambling Game'

NC2912084092 *Ba'labakk: Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic* 0630 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Text] Hizballah has reiterated its rejection of the real estate company project [for the reconstruction of Beirut], describing it as a purely commercial project that does not serve the people's interests. Hizballah's stand was voiced during a meeting held at Hizballah's general secretariat. Hizballah Secretary General al-Sayyid Hassan Nasrallah spoke during the meeting, which was attended by Deputy Ali 'Ammar and Muhammad Birjawi, as well as key figures from Beirut's southern suburb.

His Eminence al-Sayyid Nasrallah criticized the real estate company project and described it as a commercial project. He said that the project had been postponed, not canceled. He added: They say that Hizballah is adopting specific positions so that the state cannot enter Beirut's southern suburb, which is a false allegation that lacks any proof. If we do have observations on certain projects, these observations do not stem from any political sensitivity with Prime Minister al-Hariri's government, he said. He added: You say that the real estate company will build a few thousand housing units through the private sector. This means that the real estate company is the one that will mark the land and give private companies the right to build housing compounds. We ask: On what basis will this be done and at what price? When the real estate company becomes the owner of the land this means that it can stop building housing compounds and in such a case, who could force it to continue?

The Hizballah secretary general added: Beirut's southern suburb is the target of a gambling game. They talk about services and real estate companies and say that either you take it all or leave it. In the end, if we reject the offer, we would be against the services, as they say about us now.

Al-Shar': Deportations Aim To Blow Up Talks

JN2512145092 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 25 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has affirmed that Israel is threatening the peace process and is responsible for the serious situation resulting from the mass deportation of Palestinian citizens.

In a radio statement in Cairo yesterday, al-Shar' added: Proceeding from our convictions as Arab parties who would like to see peace achieved, we think that Israel's mass expulsion of Palestinians is aimed at blowing up the peace process.

Al-Shar' stressed that the Security Council should bear its responsibility for implementing Resolution 799 adopted last week concerning the Palestinians deported from their homeland. [passage omitted]

Comments by Detainees, Praise for al-Asad Noted

JN2712113292 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0910 GMT
27 Dec 92

[Text] Damascus, 27 Dec (SANA)—The Palestinian deportees have affirmed their adherence to their cause with unwavering determination and indomitable spirit so as to confront the Israeli occupation and Israel's arbitrary measures despite their harsh and critical conditions at the "al-Zuhur" camp in southern Lebanon.

In a statement to the TISHRIN newspaper mission published today, the official spokesman of the deportees Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi said that the situation in the camp has become critical, now that the injured deportees have returned to the camp and the conditions of the sick men have deteriorated in the absence of medical attention. He said that this cannot be tolerated and voices must be raised. He added that this was an operation of deportation and killing, a process of slow death in circumstances which Israel has intentionally chosen.

Al-Rantisi described the conditions of the camp in terms of food, water, and heating. He said food had run out and there was only some potatoes which might last for two days. Potable water has been nonexistent for four days and there is no heating in this very cold weather, he added.

Al-Rantisi thanked Syria for its stand and said: Syria is our country and homeland.

Al-Rantisi said: I tell Rabin: We will not go and will remain here until we expose and unmask him completely in front of the world. We will remain here until we return to our homes.

Shaykh Abu-'Abdallah said that despite their suffering, the deportees have set their hearts, eyes, and minds on their land and people and Israel's decisions and arbitrary measures will not weaken their will and steadfastness.

Abu-'Abdallah said: From here, from Marj al-Zuhur, we send greetings of love and appreciation for Syria because of its support for our demands to return. We look at President Hafiz al-Asad with love and respect, and appreciate Syria's role, struggle, and sacrifices for the sake of Palestine and its people. We value Syria's firm support for all the noble strugglers in the occupied Arab territory and its decisive and firm stands at the peace talks because it demands the return of all the land with no concessions or separate solutions.

Shaykh Abu-'Abdallah added: We are proud of Syria because it works for the sake of all the Arabs and has been and will always remain a beacon of light, and also because President Hafiz al-Asad is the historic leader at this difficult phase in the Arab nation's history. He is the only one protecting and preserving the rights and heritage of the entire Arab nation.

Paper: Arabs Convinced Israel Opposed to Peace

JN2612092192 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 26 Dec 92

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper TISHRIN today comments on the Middle East peace process and the call made by the foreign ministers of the Arab sides concerned with the peace process, urging the UN Security Council to implement its resolution regarding the repatriation of Palestinian deportees, saying: Over the past 40 years, no single international resolution or charter has been spared persistent Israeli violations. The UN Security Council has condemned Israeli measures and violations hundreds of times. However, the end result is what we see today.

TISHRIN adds: After intensive and strenuous international efforts helped convene the peace conference, and more than one year after the start of the Washington talks, Israel has committed a serious and new aggression by uprooting hundreds of Palestinians from their homeland and deporting them into the occupied part of southern Lebanon, leaving them in the barren no-man's-land there, without any water, food, or shelter to protect them from the chilly weather in flagrant defiance of the international community and its charters and principles.

TISHRIN wonders: How can peace prevail in the Middle East and how can a just settlement be reached if Israeli rulers continue to reject the principles and charters cherished by the international community and the Security Council and allow themselves to practice the law of the jungle at a time when the world strongly aspires to enforce the law of right and justice?

TISHRIN affirms that the Arabs have emerged from the peace talks with the conviction that Israeli rulers do not want peace, and that they are procrastinating and prevaricating to bring down the peace process. The paper urges the UN Security Council to confront the Israeli defiance, and asks the entire international community to

put its weight behind the efforts to ensure the repatriation of Palestinian deportees as well as the implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425.

Concluding its commentary, TISHRIN says: The Middle East peace process is at a critical junction. As for the dangers posed to its future, they are numerous and grave. It is impossible to defuse these dangers unless the international community shoulders its responsibilities and unless the cosponsors of the peace process play an effective and positive role in the interest of right and justice. Pending this, the hundreds of Palestinians deported will continue to press heavily on the conscience of Westerners, whose feelings and sentiments awakened from their slumber when the fate of a single Jew is at stake and fail to take action when the destiny of a whole people threatened with death and destruction is at stake.

Water Dispute With Turkey Escalates

PM2912144392 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
24 Dec 92 pp 1, 4

[Muhammad 'Allam report: "Vehemently Criticizing Ankara. Damascus States: It Has No Desire To Improve Relations"]

[Text] Cairo—In a sudden Syrian escalation of invective against Turkey, Damascus has leveled six strongly worded accusations at Ankara: intransigence, violation of international law, usurpation of rights, misuse of right, lack of desire to improve the atmosphere of relations, and imposing conditions and resorting to procrastination to delay final agreement on the sharing of the Tigris and Euphrates waters.

Syria warned of the danger of any Arab state's financing a project which Turkey is preparing for the Tigris and Euphrates basin, because that would put suffocating pressure on it. It drew the Arab League's and member states' attention to the danger of supporting the Turkish "peace pipeline" project designed to supply Israel with water.

In an urgent official memorandum which the League received a few days ago and whose text AL-HAYAH has read, Damascus stressed the need to link relations between any Arab state and Turkey with Ankara's stands on the Tigris and Euphrates waters. And it urged that Arab pressure on Ankara be stepped up in a "committed and constructive" way to secure—as soon as possible—a clear agreement on the sharing of the two rivers' waters with Syria and Iraq. This is because Turkey "is harming Arab interests associated with a vital element—water."

The Syrian memorandum urged the League to issue two resolutions (Damascus proposed the draft resolutions) on water resources and food security. The first urges the Arab states to "hasten to submit memorandums on their water problems with non-Arab states." The second calls for "a unified Arab position toward these non-Arab states, especially as food security is linked to water."

In its memorandum Syria expressed utmost astonishment, because "it is unreasonable for Turkey to conclude with its (formerly) Soviet, Bulgarian, and Greek neighbors agreements on its common international waters and yet procrastinate for decades to avoid reaching a just and reasonable agreement on common international waters with its Arab neighbors."

Syria attributed its escalation against Turkey to the following reasons:

First, although the talks among Syria, Iraq, and Turkey began in 1962, they have produced no positive results with regard to sharing the two rivers' waters in a fair and acceptable way. The reason for this is the Turkish side's position, which is becoming more and more intransigent.

Second, Turkey's violation of international rules and conventions and its claim to rights that do not belong to it by its insistence on considering the Tigris and Euphrates two rivers crossing the borders rather than two common international rivers among the three states. This is in addition to its attempt to impose—on the basis of its belief in this connection—the idea that it has rights which give it, so it claims, the absolute freedom to dispose of the two rivers' waters within its political boundaries on the pretext that they originate from Turkish territory.

Third, Turkey's claim that the waters passing across the Syrian-Turkish border to both Syria and Iraq are a big sacrifice on the Turkish side toward its neighbors.

Fourth, imposing conditions on the pretext of the claimed need to use technology in the irrigation projects in the two rivers' basins in the three countries, and linking the rationing of the use of water, ignoring the existing political boundaries among the three states.

Fifth, considering the Tigris and Euphrates basins one basin and the possibility of transferring the water from the Tigris and Euphrates via the al-Tharthar project in Iraq.

The Syrian memorandum urged the League and member states to do the following:

First, not to finance any Turkish project in the Tigris and Euphrates basin, on the grounds that any financing of any project would constitute a means of exerting suffocating pressure on two Arab states—Syria and Iraq.

Second, the need to reactivate technical and legal coordination so as to bring views closer and confront the stealing of water in southern Lebanon, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip.

Third, to urge Turkey to respect international law and take account of common interests. And also to examine the political background to the proposed regional projects like the "peace pipeline" project and its impact on the Arab east, especially as it is designed to supply the Zionist entity in Palestine with huge quantities of water.

Afghanistan

Rabbani Addresses Settlement Council

LD2912234792 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in
Dari 1600 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Speech by Bornaahodin Rabbani, chairman of the Leadership Council, at the opening of the Resolution and Settlement Council session in Kabul on 29 December—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Esteemed Ulema, commanders and [word indistinct] of Afghanistan and the rest of the esteemed delegates: Peace and blessing of God be upon you. [passage omitted]

Dear compatriots, respectful guests, honorable diplomatic missions of the Islamic states and friendly countries, honorable and respectful delegates of the Muslim, brave and free-born people of the country, the heirs of the martyrs and guardians of the Islamic revolution—peace and blessing of God be upon you. Thanks to Almighty God who enabled our dear and heroic nation to earnestly discharge its religious duty against blasphemy and communism; and by accepting enormous losses of life and material, we managed to hoist the banner of monotheism on the highest peaks of our Islamic country [shouts of "God is great"]. [passage omitted]

The victory of the Islamic revolution in Afghanistan is not only a heroic and epoch-making gain which is written in gold in the contemporary history of our country, but has also opened a new chapter in the area of international relations. [passage omitted]

Esteemed delegates: In following the words of Almighty God who says we must consult with each other on affairs, and on the basis of the duty assigned by the Leadership Council in accordance with a resolution passed on 24 April commissioning the government to convene the Resolution and Settlement Council, we have hereby succeeded in convening this grand session of the delegates of our country's Muslim people with the blessing of Almighty God, the support of the Muslim and faithful people of the country, and the earnest cooperation of the Jehadi groups [shouts of "God is great"]

The convocation of this session under the present difficult circumstances demonstrates the depth of awareness [words indistinct] and political maturity of our nation. It should be emphasized that our people have the right to regard the convocation of this council as their second major victory after the victory of the Islamic revolution. It is clear to you, esteemed delegates, that our Mojahedin destroyed the last nest of the communist regime in Kabul eight months ago. Since then, and in particular during the last five and a half months, despite major difficulties, with open and secret hostility by some elements who wittingly or unwittingly embarked on disruptions, the Islamic government with your cooperation has taken

positive steps for restoring security and improving the living standard of the people.

In domestic policy: The Islamic state and the faithful nation face extremely important and urgent religious and national tasks in the Islamic system. We are totally aware of this fact. Our people who have suffered great troubles and pain during the 14 years of the jihad now live in peace and tranquility without any threats and fear.

Ensuring nationwide security and positively answering the urgent needs of people are on top of the agenda of the Islamic State. As we have a great mission of reconstructing and revitalizing the country vis-a-vis our people, [words indistinct] parallel to this we ought to try to meet the urgent needs of our people.

In spite of disruption and creation of insecurity faced by each one of us, during this period we can mention the following achievements:

For the first time in the history of our country, to ensure justice and realize the rights of all the people, it was decided that the election of peoples delegates be based on [words indistinct].

Maintenance of security in Kabul city and other parts of the country.

Clearing Kabul city from the [words indistinct] irresponsible armed forces.

Distribution of coupon goods to state employees, unprecedented during the past several years.

Increasing the salary and financial privileges of civil servants, employees and service staff.

Organizing the Resolution and Settlement Council [Shura-ye Hal va 'Aql] as one of the most important historic events of the country.

Of course, other achievements have also been made, all of which are not possible to mention here.

In the realm of foreign policy:

The Islamic State of Afghanistan, in following the principles and values of the sacred religion of Islam, which always stresses peace and peaceful coexistence between the peoples, is determined to strengthen friendly relations with all the people and nations. In following such a policy, the state has developed its international relations with Islamic and neighboring states, other peace-loving states, regional and world organizations. This in itself is a manifestation of authority and [words indistinct] of the Islamic state among other states. In this regard we can mention briefly the following:

A visit of the leadership delegation of the Islamic State to Jakarta and participation in the session of the leaders of nonaligned countries and meeting with heads of states and governments of various countries.

A visit of the leadership delegation of the Islamic State to the Islamic countries of Pakistan, Iran, and Uzbekistan.

The establishment of diplomatic relations with Islamic countries such as Sudan, Uzbekistan.

Esteemed delegates, those are the tasks carried out at this time. However it should be said that in consideration of the situation and circumstances [as heard], if the security and stability of the country had not been disrupted by the occurrence of painful events, our achievements would have been many times more than this. Today all the world and the friendly countries are looking at Islamic Afghanistan, and are seeing how this country, which by giving enormous sacrifices left behind examples of eternal self-sacrifices, behaves in solving its internal issues and difficulties facing it. We are fully confident that our people, who have decisively defeated the arrogant forces, will be able to regulate their internal issues with the help of Almighty God and with the spirit of understanding and unity of views. [Shouts of "God is great"]

It must be said that everyone is now looking at you—the esteemed delegates. The Islamic nation and the Muslim people of Afghanistan have seen that the enemies of our Islamic revolution wittingly—and some of our friends unwittingly—tried to delay the process of the convocation of the Resolution and Settlement Council so that this grand meeting of our Muslim people cannot be convened on time. Even during the last days before the convocation of this Council they, through mass media, spoke about the suspension of this Council so that stability and security cannot return to our Islamic and misery-stricken country. However, the Afghan nation with full awareness and with the courage of their brave and [word indistinct] mojahed brothers, have implemented their historic decision [shouts of "God is great"] and by electing their appropriate delegates have once again shown that the nation of Afghanistan including Pashtuns, Tajiks, Uzbeks, Hazaras, Turkmens, [word indistinct], Nuristanis, Pasha's, and other Afghans and nationalities who reside in this country and who are brothers with each other, have always—and in those instances where the fate of the country and national sovereignty were an issue, together with each other with fraternal feelings—taken their common decision on important national and historic issues with full understanding, unity and common views. At the present time too we will witness the united and joint decision of all of you people's delegates on choosing the future leadership of the country.

They [delegates] must clearly decide, and we believe in your action and earnest decision. I am confident that your decision regarding the selection of the country's future leadership and its [word indistinct] will be correct, precise, and decisive. This is in the light of the holy verse of the Koran ordained by God which states that whatever you are entrusted with, return it to its rightful owner. [Shouts of "God is great"].

Esteemed delegates, the selection of today's and tomorrow's leadership depends on you—the genuine delegates of the people. If yesterday the jihadi leaders were guiding the bloody uprising of the nation, and if now whoever takes over the future administration of the country, no leadership will mean anything beyond your will and decision. [Shouts of "God is great"]. The selection of the country's leadership is your natural right and your religious duty.

Esteemed brethren; our country seriously needs peace and stability. I hope the wise work of yours, esteemed members of the Resolution and Settlement Council, this grand session of the Muslim people of the country, can put an end to the annoyance and displeasure that has existed among our mojahed brothers. [shouts of "God is great"]

The strengthening of the holy words of monotheism and all-round sovereignty of the lofty Muhammadan shari'ah—peace and God's blessing upon him—can dominate all walks of people's life. The establishment of an Islamic society void of moral filth and corruption [words indistinct], strengthening of national unity, independence, national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country, have today become a major and sensitive religious and national duty of every man living in this country. You—the competent delegates of the heroic nation—will surely take your historic decision which will strengthen national unity, consolidate the Islamic State, create a fraternal atmosphere and even further understanding between tribes, forces, and strata. I hope that henceforth all tribal prejudice and racial differences will find no place in Islamic Afghanistan. [shouts of "God is great"]. I am sure that the sensitivity and importance of your enormous historic mission is completely clear to everyone of you—esteemed delegates. I pray to Almighty God [words indistinct] for your success. [passage omitted]

May peace and God's blessing be upon you.

Hekmatyar Challenges Legitimacy of Shura

BK2912152292 Hong Kong AFP in English 1511 GMT
29 Dec 92

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 29 (AFP)—The radical Hezb-e-Islami Mojahedin faction led by Golboddin Hekmatyar challenged Tuesday [29 December] the legitimacy of an Afghan electoral council currently meeting in Kabul to choose the country's next president.

A statement carried by the Hezb-run Afghan News Agency (ANA), said the faction did not recognise the Kabul government-sponsored council, or shura, which has been tipped to re-elect interim President Burhanoddin Rabbani for 18 months.

Demanding an immediate transfer of presidential power to a 10-member Mojahedin leadership council, the Hezb

said Rabbani had violated the shura commission's recommendations by convening the gathering in its present shape.

The meeting was being held in violation of the relevant rules and regulations, ANA said without elaborating.

Instead of entertaining the objections of Mujahedin parties, Rabbani convened the shura unilaterally, ANA said. Unless the government suspended its proceedings, the shura's decision would not be binding on the Hezb, the agency added. It also warned delegates who did not want to see further bloodshed in Afghanistan to boycott the shura, saying those who participated would be responsible for "dire consequences."

Hekmatyar: Convening Council 'Declaration of War'

LD2912144992 (Clandestine) Radio Message of
Freedom in Pakistan to Afghanistan 0900 GMT
29 Dec 92

[Conversation between Gorboddin Hekmatyar, leader of the Islamic Party, Hezb-e Islami, and unidentified UN and Islamic Conference Organization officials in Charsiah on 28 December—read by announcer]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Hekmatyar] We say that ulema and commanders should come together and introduce their representatives to the central council. Previously a resolution was passed in this respect by a commission which said that no interference from the capital should take place [in selecting representatives to the Resolution and Settlement Council] But, regrettably, governors themselves introduced deputies and sent them to the capital. Therefore seven leaders opposed the council and two leaders backed it.

[Official] What is the view of the people about investigation into the council members' personality [taskia]?

[Hekmatyar] We do not agree with this. This process has been conducted wrongly. Those who have come to the capital for this purpose [Resolution and Settlement Council] cannot represent the nation. Rabbani's term has expired. He can no longer stay in the seat of power. His place must be taken by another person. This should be on the basis of consensus in the Leadership Council, or Mawlawi Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi should replace Rabbani, or the government should be formed of neutral persons, other than the leaders, and be acceptable to all, and in keeping with the resolution of the [organizing] commission, a council should be formed.

[Official] To whom should Rabbani submit the power?

[Hekmatyar] To the Leadership Council. Members of the Resolution and Settlement Council are all from Rabbani's organizations. Even the people of districts do not know about them. This process should be corrected

in accordance with the resolution of the commission, and a council should be formed capable of forming a new government.

[Official] What do you expect the United Nations and the Islamic Conference Organization to carry out?

[Hekmatyar] They should advise all parties to abandon fighting, bargaining, and coup d'etats and instead submit themselves to righteousness and justice so that decisions are made on the basis of justice.

[Official] How do you assess the present situation?

[Hekmatyar] There is always the danger of renewed fighting. The situation is very tense. Rabbani is responsible for all the present events and he is their cause. He has created such a situation.

[Official] What is the way to get out of it?

[Hekmatyar] There are many ways, provided others accept them. I am confident that if Rabbani submits to another [words indistinct] government so that elections are held in six months. Then these problems will be resolved.

[Official] It has been said in the Peshawar Accord that the term of government after the first six months will be 18 months, but you say that elections should be held within six months.

[Hekmatyar] Basically, no one has observed the Peshawar Accord, and no value is left in it. For instance, the Accord says that by no means can Rabbani's term of office be extended more than four months, even for one day.

[Official] What do you say about the right of women to be in parliament?

[Hekmatyar] This issue must be discussed by the ulema and their role will be stated in the future constitution of the country.

[Official] If Rabbani convenes this council, will, in your opinion, the present problem be resolved [words indistinct]?

[Hekmatyar] I personally think that if Rabbani insists on the continuation of [words indistinct], the situation will deteriorate the responsibility for this will rest with Rabbani. We have not recognized this government, and we cannot help it. But, as I said previously, if an international organization wants to help our people, we will help them in this respect. International aid will be administered and controlled and distributed by a joint commission. The distribution of aid will be carried out, fairly, under the supervision of a delegation of this commission. [Passage omitted]

[Official] What will happen if the work of the present council goes ahead which Rabbani wants to complete?

[Hekmatyar] I think it will be like the declaration of war. You can ask the people of the districts whether, really, the people who have come to Kabul are their representatives.

[Official] We asked government officials. They also admitted this but a limited number of them did not.

[Hekmatyar] We are not power hungry. We want the people to be given the opportunity to form an Islamic government according to their will and determination. Let the people resolve for themselves. We say if they can convene a council in 20 days, and as they themselves say that this council can represent all the people, what is the problem that prevents such a council being convened in six months? In conditions in which, as they claim, they have brought all representatives in three days, why cannot such a council be convened in six months? Thank you.

Commission To Investigate Election Complaints

LD2612180592 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 Dec 92

[Text] A commission headed by Mawlawi Mohammad Shah Fasi, President of the Supreme Court of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, was formed in order to investigate the complaints made in connection with the election of representatives to the Showna-ye Hal va 'Aql [Resolution and Settlement Council].

A source in the Supreme Court reported to a BAKHTAR correspondent that the commission members are esteemed Qazi Mohammad Omar Mohammad, Head of the Penal Court; Esteemed Qazi Amanullah Mawj, Head of [word indistinct] of judicial authority; Esteemed Qazi Fazel Ahmad, head of the Civil Court; and Esteemed Qazi Murad Ali Murad, Head of the secretariat of the Supreme Court. The Commission commenced its work yesterday.

Moscow Cites Supreme Court Criticism of Elections

NC2912075292 Moscow Radio Moscow in Persian 1330 GMT 27 Dec 92

[Text] The Afghan Supreme Court has criticized the mechanism for electing the new president of the country. The president will be elected by the Council of Representatives from all of the provinces. Chief Justice Fasi stated that he shares the people's fear that this election may not be just.

Earlier, the representatives of seven of the nine main mujahedin groups accused President Burhanuddin Rabbani of orchestrating the election of his favored representatives by bribery.

Defense Ministry Reported To Accept Conditions

LD2512234192 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 25 Dec 92

[Text] The Defense Ministry has accepted all Dostum's conditions, provided his forces maintain their neutral position in any future fighting.

The correspondent of the Radio Message of Freedom reports from Kabul that the Defense Ministry of the coalition government in Kabul sent a message to General (Homayun Fawzi), assistant and envoy of Dostum, saying that if his forces remain neutral in any of the future fighting in Kabul, the coalition administration is ready to accept all conditions put forward by them. The report also adds that a delegation from Rabbani, led by Omid Tawana, had gone to Mazar-e Sharif and handed over a message to Dostum saying that all conditions put forward by him are acceptable to the coalition administration, and Dostum should send his delegates to Kabul as soon as possible to take part in the Resolution and Settlement Council. The report adds that Dostum, after receiving this assurance given by Rabbani, has sent a delegation to Kabul, led by Talagani, in order to carry out talks with Rabbani and the coalition administration.

Iranian Envoy Pledges Support for Afghan People

LD2812153762 Tehran IRNA in English 1329 GMT 28 Dec 92

[Text] Kabul, Dec. 28, IRNA—Delegates of Afghanistan's National Settlement Council in a meeting with Iran's Ambassador to Kabul, Morteza-Najafi here Monday [28 December] called for continuation of Iran's assistance for tackling the prevailing difficulties in Afghanistan.

One of the delegates, Mawlawi Dost Mohammad, who heads a 27-member council in western provinces of Afghanistan, said Afghanistan which has sustained massive destruction under the occupation of former Soviet Union, is in need of Iran's help to reconstruct the country.

The Iranian diplomat said that the Islamic Republic of Iran was determined to assist the Muslim people of Afghanistan and will continue to remain on the side of the Afghan people.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran is in favour of territorial integrity of Afghanistan," Najafi said.

The ambassador said Iran condemns any foreign interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs.

Dost Mohammad once again expressed his gratitude for Iran's 14 years of support for the Afghan people.

Iranian Official Arrives For Talks With Leaders

LD3012115992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Our country's deputy foreign minister for Asian and Oceanic affairs [Ali'uddin Boroujerdi] arrived in Kabul today. He is due to meet government officials and leaders of mujahedin groups of Afghanistan and review with them the latest developments in that country. He announced at Kabul Airport that the Islamic Republic of Iran, as a continuous policy, will not withhold any efforts to assist in finding solutions to the problems of Islamic Afghanistan.

UN Official Offers To Play Intermediary Role

BK2712112892 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 27 Dec 92

[Text] Two representatives of the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization], accompanied by the personal representative of the UN secretary general in Pakistan and Afghanistan, visited Kabul yesterday to take stock of the situation prevailing there in connection with the convening of Showra-ye Hal va 'Aqd [Resolution and Settlement Council]. The meeting of the shura is likely to elect the future leader of the Islamic Afghanistan. On his return to Islamabad after the visit, the personal representative of the UN secretary general told newsmen that he was ready to play an intermediary role to improve the situation in Afghanistan.

Bangladesh

Foreign Secretary Denies Forced Repatriation

BK2612140292 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1230 GMT 26 Dec 92

[Text] Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman has said that no Rohingya refugee has been repatriated from Bangladesh to Burma against his will. He said this while briefing newsmen in Dhaka this afternoon and added that Bangladesh is doing everything possible for the voluntary repatriation of all the 250,000 Burmese nationals known as Rohingyas. These refugees have been in Bangladesh for the past year. Commenting on the allegations made by the UNHCR high commissioner, Mrs. Sadako Ogata, and a spokesman of the U.S. State Department that Bangladesh is sending the Rohingyas refugees to their country against their wishes, the foreign secretary said that he was surprised by the news. Terming both the news items as baseless, the foreign secretary said that Bangladesh will continue efforts to hold consultations with the UNHCR on the repatriation process and through diplomatic channels would try to convince the U.S. Government about the role of Bangladesh in this regard. Mr. Reaz Rahman said that in accordance with their claim, Bangladesh will not stop the repatriation process and added that refugees who express their willingness to go back would be repatriated.

Another group of 376 Rohingyas refugees returned to Burma this morning. They were sent from Rongkhikali and Jinnahpara transit camps. Government officials bade them farewell at the border. Officials of the Burmese government received these refugees at Tainchoung and Nakua transit camps. With this, a total of 4,625 refugees have so far returned to their country. Our Cox's Bazar correspondent reports that at present 5,500 refugees are awaiting repatriation at Nayapara, Rongkhikali and Jinnahpara transit camps.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Pays Visit

Discusses Expansion Of Ties

BK2212155892 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Formal talks between Bangladesh and the Russian Federation were held in Dhaka today. The meeting expressed the hope of expanding bilateral ties between the two countries in various fields in the backdrop of the changed world situation. Visiting Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Fedorovich Kunadze led his country's delegation in the talks, while the Bangladesh side was led by Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman. After the end of the two and a half hour-long talks, Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman said the meeting made an overall review of all aspects of bilateral relations with a view to further expand cooperation in economic, cultural and diplomatic spheres. He said both sides will sign a protocol tomorrow (regarding) arrangements for annual talks between senior officials of the foreign ministries of the two countries. Mr. Rahman said that the Bosnia-Herzegovina situation also came up for discussion and the meeting stressed the need to halt expulsion of inhabitants from the trouble-torn areas of Eastern Europe.

Accord Reached on Jute Trade

BK2312133492 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1230 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] Bangladesh and Russia have reached an agreement on the large-scale expansion of trade ties in the field of raw jute and jute goods. The agreement was reached at an official-level meeting held between the delegations of the two countries in Dhaka this morning. Jute Minister Hannan Shah led the Bangladesh side at the meeting, while the Russian side was led by Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Fedorovich Kunadze.

Political Protocol Signed

BK2312164592 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] Bangladesh and the Russian Federation have signed a protocol providing for annual meetings between the foreign ministers and senior officials of the two countries. This protocol was signed by the Russian deputy foreign minister, Georgiy Fedorovich Kunadze, and the Bangladesh foreign secretary, Reaz Rahman.

After signing the protocol, Reaz Rahman said that this has provided an opportunity for holding the consultations at least once a year alternately in Dhaka and Moscow. Before signing the protocol, Deputy Foreign Minister Kunadze paid a courtesy call on Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman. A Foreign Office spokesman said that they held discussions on strengthening cooperation between the two countries.

Minister Leaves for Nepal

BK2512104492 Hong Kong AFP in English 1446 GMT 24 Dec 92

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 24 (AFP)—Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Kunadze left Bangladesh for Nepal Thursday [24 December] saying his "successful visit" had paved the way for further close cooperation between the countries.

Kunadze said his visit had been "quite good and successful ... we have paved the way for furthering cooperation as we had no contradictions on issues discussed."

The minister's visit coincided with the commemoration of 20 years of diplomatic ties between Bangladesh and Moscow, which was among the first to recognise Bangladesh in 1971.

The Soviet Union also helped war-ravaged Bangladesh in its post-independence rehabilitation efforts, especially in clearing the country's main Chittagong Port for aid-carrying ships.

The two sides signed a protocol Wednesday providing for annual consultations between the diplomats of the two countries, the first such pact since the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman said a three-year cultural, education and scientific agreement would be signed soon.

British Home Secretary Arrives in Dhaka

BK2912154292 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Text] British Home Secretary Kenneth Clarke arrived in Dhaka today on a four-day official visit to Bangladesh. Talking to newsmen at the airport, Mr Clarke said that he will hold talks on some specific bilateral and international matters with the home minister of Bangladesh. He will also discuss the issue of international cooperation for checking terrorism and drug abuse. Among others, Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury and British High Commissioner Sir Colin Imray received him at the airport.

Opposition Party Leader Arrested Under New Law

BK2412162292 Hong Kong AFP in English 1452 GMT 24 Dec 92

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 24 (AFP)—A former minister and a top leader of the opposition Bangladeshi Jatiya Party (JP) was arrested here Thursday [24 December] under a tough new anti-terrorism law, police said.

An officer at the Tejgaon police station said Khaledur Rahman Tito, who recently became the party's secretary general on the recommendation of party chairman and deposed Bangladesh president Hussain Mohammad Ershad, was arrested under the law for damaging two vehicles in front of a party office.

Witnesses said Tito was picked up by police when he along with some partymen tried to break the lock of the party office in Kawran Bazar area in presence of local reporters.

Two passing vehicles were damaged by angry JP workers, before being chased off by riot police, who cordoned off the building housing the office, they said.

"The government was misusing its power to repress us and it does not want us to do politics democratically," Tito said.

He accused police of "forcibly" locking the main office of JP, which has 35-seats in the 330-member parliament, in a rented part of three-storey building on December 16.

Police denied Tito's allegations and said they had gone there on the request of the building's owner who terminated a three-year lease agreement signed in February.

The law, which provides for a minimum of five years in jail to death sentence as well as speedy trial, was passed in parliament last month despite a boycott by the opposition, who had charged that the government would use the law to repress rivals.

The government denied the allegations saying the law was enacted to deal with a recent crime wave.

Ershad, 63, who was stepped down two years ago in the face of mass protests against his nearly nine-year rule, is currently jail and has been sentenced to 13 years jail term for graft and possession of illegal weapons.

He faces several more graft charges.

Protestors Burn Effigy of Fundamentalist Leader

BK2912152692 Hong Kong AFP in English 1321 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 29 (AFP)—Several hundred people demonstrated here Tuesday against fundamentalist leader Golam Azam, accused of war crimes during Bangladesh's 1971 war against Pakistan, burning him in effigy.

Demonstrators belonging to the Committee for Annihilation of the Butchers and Collaborators (CABC) of the 1971 independence war, marched through downtown with a 25-foot long effigy of Azam before torching it near the National Press Club.

The "national day of hatred" called by the CABC marked the first anniversary of Azam's election as chief of the Jamaat-e-Islami party.

The CABC labeled Azam a Pakistani national staying illegally in Bangladesh, and called for his trial on alleged war crimes and violation of the country's constitution.

"The agitation will continue until Azam is tried in a special tribunal," the CABC leader, retired Colonel Kazi Nuruzzaman, told the demonstrators, who later dispersed peacefully.

Azam, 70, who was in Pakistan when the war ended, was stripped of Bangladeshi citizenship in 1972.

He returned in 1978 via Saudi Arabia on a Pakistani passport and has stayed here since then demanding Bangladeshi citizenship. He was arrested in March under the Foreigners' Act.

The opposition-backed CABC was formed against him early this year after he was formally elected the chief of the party he also headed before 1971.

The dispute over his citizenship is being fought before the High Court.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's government had insisted that controversy over Azam should be settled through the judiciary.

In March, the CABC organised a mock trial of Azam in Dhaka sentencing him to death for the crimes which included rape, murder and acting against the independence war in 1971, in which what used to be East Pakistan became Bangladesh.

India

Government Decides To Send Troops to Somalia

BK2912155492 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0930 GMT 29 Dec 92

["Press Release on Government of India's decision to dispatch troops to Somalia"—ISI headline]

[Text] The Government of India has decided to join the international effort being mounted in Somalia in pursuance of the UN Security Council resolution number 794 of December 3, 1992.

India's contribution will consist of two naval ships, one Corvette and one landing ship tank. In addition India will send a contingent of approximately one brigade strength of the Indian Army which will include independent units of paramedical personnel. This was

announced by the minister of state for external affairs, Eduardo Faleiro, in a press release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs today. Government's decision to participate in the UN effort has been prompted by the rapidly deteriorating situation in Somalia where the two year old civil war has devastated the country and condemned thousands of innocent civilians to imminent death from malnutrition, starvation, and disease. Faleiro personally visited the Somali capital, Mogadishu, last month and saw first hand the scale of human suffering and tragedy in this brotherly African country. Faleiro also handed over to the UN secretary general's special representative for Somalia a cheque for U.S. dollar 250,000 from the Africa Fund as well as India's contribution of food and medicines worth 20 lakh rupees. This was in pursuance of the initiative taken by the prime minister at the Nonaligned Summit at Jakarta.

The unfolding human tragedy in Somalia has become a matter of grave international concern. After the collapse of the government of Somalia headed by General Siad Barre, warring factions have created a situation of total anarchy. The capital Mogadishu is torn into war zones controlled by different armed factions. There is a complete breakdown of infrastructural facilities. There is no electricity in Somalia, no sanitation and a hopeless water supply situation. Almost every second house has been destroyed. Others bear the scars of a ruthless and [word indistinct] civil war. The scale of this tragedy can be measured by the fact that over 300,000 innocent civilians have already perished and around 15 lakh Somalis are facing acute starvation and disease. Famine has stalked the land and there is virtually no domestic production of food.

The international humanitarian effort mounted to provide food to the starving millions Somalis been seriously hampered by looting and pillage of relief supplies by armed gangs owing allegiance to the two major warring factions. Only around 20 percent of the food supplies are reaching the affected population. The continuing instability in Somalia is a matter of concern to India as it affects the entire region. India cannot remain indifferent to these developments. The OAU, NAM and G-15 have all expressed concern over Somalia. The UN Security Council passed a unanimous resolution number 794 on December 3, 1992 which authorised the UN Security Council and member states to use all necessary means to establish as soon as possible a secure environment for humanitarian relief operations in Somalia.

Government has decided to join the international effort under the UNSC resolution and contribute to its successful outcome. India's participation in this effort is designed both to demonstrate full support for the UN effort in Somalia and to reaffirm India's continued commitment to assist brotherly developing countries in distress.

Pakistani Decision on Karachi Consulate Reduction

Ministry Comments

BK2912125892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Text] Pakistan has conveyed its unilateral decision to New Delhi to reduce the strength of the consulate general of India in Karachi from 64 to 20.

Commenting on the decision, the External Affairs Ministry spokesman said the move will affect people-to-people contact between the two countries, especially between the Mohajir community in Pakistan and their Muslim relatives in India. The spokesman said the step is the culmination of a process of harassment aimed at the Indian consulate general over the past three years.

Commentary Criticism

BK3012093892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Commentary by Pushp Saraf of THE INDIAN EXPRESS]

[Text] Pakistan is up to it again. It continues to strain the Indo-Pakistan ties. Its unilateral decision curtailing the strength of India's diplomatic and nondiplomatic personnel in the Karachi Consulate from 64 to 20 is a latest jolt it has given to relations between the two countries. The move exposes Pakistan to the charge of sabotaging the people-to-people contacts between the two countries. On an average, India's Karachi consulate handles 700 visa applications every year. It will now be hampered in its work by the shortage of staff. Pakistan's decision indicates how low it can stoop to spoil chances of a cordial atmosphere.

Pakistan had cautioned its nationals against traveling to India on the 2d of this month, following the killing of two Pakistanis in Jullundur in a police encounter with terrorists. Despite that the Indian missions in Islamabad and Karachi had issued visas to nearly 8,000 Pakistani nationals. The missions accomplished the task even though they were closed for some days in the wake of demonstrations following the demolition of the disputed structure in Ayodhya. The Mujahir community of Pakistan may be the worst hit by the Islamabad action. Already the community is aggrieved because of what it calls the unjustified domination of the other communities. Pakistan's move comes close on the heels of the ransacking of the residence of Indian Consul General in Karachi. Before that, an Indian diplomat was badly beaten up. All along, Pakistan has been aiding and abetting terrorists in Punjab and the Kashmir valley. India's chargesheet against Pakistan can be fairly long. Pakistan has often indulged in baseless propaganda both to whip up passions at home and to mislead other

countries. It has invariably spoiled the tenor of international conferences which are otherwise meant to promote amity and brotherhood. Whether it is a United Nations show or a SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] meeting, it has raised irrelevant issues with a solitary objective of tarnishing India's image. It speaks to the maturity of Indian leaders that they have always acted with restraint. Pakistan must realize that its petulant behavior will not take it far. Islamabad will, in any case, do well not to test India's patience for too long.

Rao Rules Out Mid-Term Poll

BK2912092492 Delhi All India Radio Network in Hindi 0840 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Text] The prime minister has categorically ruled out any mid-term poll in the country. Addressing a news conference in Tirupati this morning before leaving for Delhi, Mr. Narasimha Rao said that there is no political instability or political impasse at present. He said the defeat of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party]-sponsored no-confidence motion proves that there is no need for any mid-term poll.

Mr. Rao said the home secretary is being asked to visit Ayodhya for on-the-spot study of the situation and the center will make a full assessment of the reports on the happenings there. He expressed confidence that the steps announced by the center after the Ayodhya developments will be accepted by all parties. He said these steps could lead to a solution of the Ayodhya issue. He termed the reported rejection of the Ayodhya package by some political parties as initial reaction and added that it will be finally accepted once its significance is understood.

Replying to a variety of questions, Mr. Narasimha Rao did not agree with a view that the Left parties have rejected his appeal for cooperation in fighting communalism. He said that the Left parties shared his perception that the first and foremost task today is to promote secularism and strengthen the secular forces. He, however, made it clear that this does not mean forming a front or an alliance, but merely cooperating on issues.

Replying to another question, the prime minister said that the contention that the Ayodhya incidents have led to a serious setback to economic reforms is wrong. He said economic reforms were being speedily implemented during the last three to four months.

Regarding Article 356 of the Constitution [on the imposition of president's rule in states], Mr. Narasimha Rao said that there have been discussions and debate over it and if need be there can be a fresh debate also.

Asked about the Congress-I's relations with All India Anna-Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, Rao said it would have been better if the media had presented the facts in the right perspective.

The prime minister announced that the center is holding a meeting soon for disposal of problems faced by various states.

Later talking to reporters at Bangalore airport while on his way to Delhi from Tirupati, Mr. Narasimha Rao described the center's proposal after the Ayodhya developments as sensible and practicable. To a question on the Faizabad administration to permit symbolic darshan [viewing] of the Lord Rama idol in Ayodhya, he said he is getting an authentic report from the union home secretary on reaching Delhi.

Further Reportage on Ayodhya Mosque, Developments

Cabinet Developments 26 Dec

BA2712080692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 27 Dec 92

[Text] The union cabinet presided over by the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, reviewed various aspects which relate to the Ayodhya incident. At a meeting in New Delhi yesterday, it also took note of the proceedings before the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court on the issue.

As already reported, the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court will continue the hearing on the petitions seeking permission to perform puja [prayer] and have darshan [view] of Lord Rama at the disputed site at Ayodhya. The court has also directed the state government to file an affidavit mentioning therein the actual position now in Ayodhya, including the relaxation in curfew, if any, and its timing.

Parties Urge Reconsideration

BA2812161892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1730 GMT 28 Dec 92

[Text] The Janata Dal, CPI [Communist Party of India], and CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] have urged the Center to reconsider its decisions on the Ayodhya issue. A joint statement issued by the three parties in New Delhi today said that the decision to allow darshan [viewing] at the disputed site will only aggravate the present delicate situation and legitimize what the communal forces have done on the 6th of December and later. The statement said the decision to acquire the land will be purposeful only when provocative activities are not allowed there. The statement said that a single-point reference to the Supreme Court cannot solve the problem and demanded transferring of all pending cases to the Supreme Court for its verdict.

Chavan Defends Government Steps

BA2812160092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 28 Dec 92

[Text] The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, has said the Center's move on the Ayodhya dispute offered the best

solution. Addressing a news conference in Pune today, he expressed confidence that the steps taken will pave the way for a permanent solution. Mr. Chavan made it clear that the trust will build the structures, not the government. The home minister said that organizations allegedly floated by those already banned will face action if they carried on unlawful activities.

Dhaka, Islamabad Stand Decried

BA3012093092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Former External Affairs Ministers Mr. I. K. Gujral and Mr. Dinesh Singh have expressed distress at the reactions of Pakistan and Bangladesh prime ministers to the Ayodhya incident. In a statement issued in New Delhi, they expressed surprise over Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's plan to take the Ayodhya issue to the Organization of Islamic Conference and the United Nations in utter violation of the Simla agreement. They said his attempt is to conceal the recent state-sponsored violence in Pakistan against the helpless minorities whose places of worship were systematically destroyed. In the same way, they said, the Bangladesh Government's record of treatment of minorities does not justify the prime minister, Begum Khaleda Zia, pointing fingers at others.

Muslims Plan March

BA2912160092 Hong Kong AFP in English 1326 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 29 (AFP)—Muslim clergymen are planning to march to the northern Indian town of Ayodhya to pray at the site of a 16th-century mosque demolished by militant Hindus this month, a leading Muslim priest said Tuesday.

Ahmad Bukhari, the deputy imam of Delhi's biggest mosque, Jama Masjid, also criticised a decision by the local authorities in Ayodhya to allow Hindus to pray at a makeshift temple erected on the rubble of the Moghul-built mosque.

"If Hindus could be allowed to offer prayers at the disputed site, why not Muslims," Bukhari said, adding that he was in touch with other Muslim leaders to coordinate the march plans.

A Muslim minister from Premier P.V. Narasimha Rao's cabinet said meanwhile that he and his other colleagues were opposed to a decision by New Delhi to seek a Supreme Court opinion on the Ayodhya dispute.

Hindus claim that the demolished Babri mosque stood on the site of a temple to their warrior-king Lord Rama. Muslims dispute the claim.

The government announced Sunday that it was taking over the site in Ayodhya and set up two trusts to build a mosque and a temple.

It also decided to ask the Supreme Court to rule whether the mosque was built by the founder of the Moghul dynasty, emperor Babbar, on the site of a temple.

Deputy Commerce Minister Salman Khurshid told AFP that Muslim ministers wanted the court to decide all the cases related to the Ayodhya dispute and not just the issue of whether the mosque was built over a razed Hindu temple.

Khurshid said the Muslim ministers would meet Rao to discuss the Ayodhya controversy soon.

Most Muslim leaders and political parties, including the Hindu revivalist Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP, Indian People's Party), which spearheaded the campaign for a temple on the mosque site, have rejected the government compromise package.

Hindu-Muslim clashes triggered by the demolition of the mosque left more than 1,150 people dead across India.

Extra Police Units To Fight Bihar Insurgency

BK2912075392 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Text] The Bihar Government is to raise two companies of specially trained police to counter insurgency in the state. This was announced by the state parliamentary affairs minister, Mr. Bhupendra Prasad Verma, while replying to a call-attention motion in the state legislative council yesterday. He said additional vehicles and communication equipment will be provided to the police force posted in the militant-affected districts.

Iran

Iraqi 'Downplaying' of Plane Incident Viewed

NC2912154992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, U.S. President George Bush has described the attack by U.S. military planes on two Iraqi warplanes and the downing of one in the air safety zone in the south as a warning to Saddam Husayn. Iraq has reserved the right to respond at the proper time and in the proper way. In general, however, it has attempted to downplay the importance of the issue.

This is the first instance since the exclusion zone was established four months ago in which aircraft of the Western coalition forces, spearheaded by the United States, have downed an Iraqi plane in this area. Resolution 766 was passed four months ago at the behest of three of the permanent members of the UN Security Council: the United States, Britain, and France. According to this resolution, the area south of the 32d parallel in Iraqi territory was declared a no-fly zone. Iraqi overflights were banned in this area.

According to this resolution, the objective of setting up an air safety zone was to provide support to the Shiites in southern Iraq against repressive attacks by Saddam's regime. Within the framework of Resolution 766, U.S. and Western allied airplanes carried out a number of daily reconnaissance flights, the total number of which has been estimated at 7,500. There were no untoward incidents during these flights.

Despite its declared opposition to this exclusion zone, Iraq in practice has not attempted to thwart the U.S. overflights, which have numbered as many as 120 a day. From this point of view, the issue of Iraqi planes entering the prohibited zone in the south and the U.S. reaction, which culminated in the downing of an Iraqi airplane, has attracted experts' attention.

Some political experts believe this ostensibly military action has political roots and view it as a U.S. reaction to an Iraqi action. The experts deem Iraq's violation of the moratorium on flights in the air exclusion zone as a means to test U.S. reaction during this transitional period between Bush and Clinton.

These experts state that with the U.S. downing of the Iraqi airplane and the support by U.S. President-elect Clinton for this policy, Iraq seems to have received its answer. Other experts, however, believe the U.S. downing of the Iraqi airplane is fraught with numerous messages regarding the internal developments in Iraq, military moves on the part of the ruling regime, and regional developments. The experts do not consider the U.S. action as a reaction to Iraq's defiance of Resolution 766, but attribute it to the U.S. attempt to evoke an appropriate response to Washington's policies in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf.

In any case, one cannot rule out the possibility that this action is part of Bush's package of measures during his last days as President, designed to make his exit from power a heroic event.

Turkish Extension of Multinational Force Viewed

LD2512231092 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 25 Dec 92

[Text] The ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY reports from Ankara that, yesterday, the Turkish parliament agreed the extension of multinational forces' mission, headed by the U.S., in Turkey for another six months, with 236 votes for and 155 against. This decision was made at a time when, since a long time ago, most of Turkey's political parties had opposed to the Western countries' use of Turkey's bases in the south. According to analysts, in yesterday's session of the Turkish parliament, only representatives of the Right Path and People's Social Democratic coalition parties were for this decision. In justifying the reason for the said parties' agreement to the presence of foreign forces in Turkey, the Turkish prime minister, Mr. Demirel, in a press conference held yesterday on the occasion of the new year, said: The multinational forces, known as

Poised Hammer, despite some claims concerning their probable help to the establishment of a Kurdish government in north Iraq, do not follow such an aim, rather in their absence, Ankara will be forced to deter attacks by the Kurds in north Iraq against Turkey by itself.

The statement has brought about several new questions in the Turkish public opinion. One of these questions is related to Mr. Demirel's opposition to the presence of these forces before his tenure of office as prime minister. Actually, the Turkish people expect Mr. Demirel to explain to them as to what developments have taken place since last year that has led to a change in his position, before and after his tenure of office as prime minister. But the more important question is related to the use of multinational forces for defending Turkey against probable attacks by the Kurds in north Iraq. In view of Turkey's power, which Mr. Demirel invokes in the same interview, and mentions suppression of Turkish Kurds inside and north of Iraq as an important achievement for government in 1992, how has the Turkish Government been convinced that it needs multinational forces to ensure security against attacks by the Kurds in north Iraq?

Actually the expression of this view confirms the opposition parties' accusation relating behind-the-curtain agreements between Ankara and Washington. The leaders of opposition parties in Turkey believe that presently the Westerners are keen to dismember Iraq for getting access to the oil resources in the north, and they are trying to use Turkish soil as a base for their long-term purposes. And, for this reason, the United States and its allies, in their talks with the Turkish officials, have encouraged them to implement their programs by giving various promises. Amidst this, extension of multinational forces' presence in south Turkey has once again brought up the question of disintegration of Iraq and its destructive effects on the security of the region, especially on the Kurdish-inhabited regions in Turkey, in their domestic political circles. As an Ankara-based weekly has written in its recent edition, the oil companies are considering the division of oil wells in north Iraq, and the smell of oil in Kharkuk, Mosul, and al-Sulaymaniyah of Iraq remind them of \$16 billion a year income. Therefore, the multinational forces in Turkey actually act as these companies' military arm so as to carry out its capitalist intentions in the earliest convenient time. If these forces had really come to ensure security for the Kurds in north Iraq, they would certainly pay attention to the massacre of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina by the Serbs, and would devote part of their military capability to prevent such crimes. Evidently, no one smells of oil in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Radio Questions International Silence on Deportees

NC271208,2692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 Dec 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] More than a week after the Zionist entity's deportation of 417 Palestinians, the deportees remain homeless on the boundary line in occupied south Lebanon. Latest reports indicate that they live in regrettable conditions as a result of the extreme cold, rain, and snowfall, particularly as the Zionist entity is preventing even the Red Cross from providing relief aid to them.

The Muslim deportees have been facing water and food shortages for several days. They are rationing their food. In the absence of fresh water, these Palestinian Muslims are forced to use the polluted water of a stream running beside their tents. Some of them are said to be in very bad condition. Two of them were wounded by bullets fired by Israeli soldiers. A third suffered a heart attack as a result of the hardships and the extreme cold. Several others are suffering the consequences of the shortage of food and medical supplies. Some of them were transferred to hospitals in south Lebanon. Zionist troops attacked this area yesterday and returned nine deportees from the hospital to their extremely cold and unsuitable camp.

Undoubtedly the history of the Zionists' criminality during their four-decade occupation of Palestine always included similar black chapters of inhuman acts. Numerous bitter memories fill the history of injustice to which the Palestinian people have been subjected, including the Zionist crimes in Kafr Qasim, Dayr Yasin, and the Sabra and Shatila camps.

The Zionist entity has expelled more than 400 Palestinians from their country without evidence or trial, contravening international law and norms. It has planted land mines around them and continues to open fire on them to prevent them from returning.

The indifferent stance of the international organizations, particularly the UN Security Council, is striking and raises questions. Also questionable is the fact that the Arab countries have not adopted a firm and serious position opposing the Zionist crimes. The UN Security Council last week issued Resolution 799, adopted by a majority vote, clearly asking Israel to guarantee the safety and the return of all the Palestinian deportees to the occupied territories. More than a week after its passage, no practical measures have been adopted to implement it. This has increased the Zionist entity's arrogance, which is an extension of its inhuman, expansionist policies. The issuance of dozens of symbolic resolutions has produced only verbal condemnation of Israel.

In light of the angry public reaction to the plight of 417 unarmed Palestinian Muslim deportees, the question to the international organizations and the Arab countries is: How long will the Palestinian people remain victims of their silence and of refraining from practical measures against Zionist crimes?

ICO 'Decisive Measures' on Bosnia 'Not Unlikely'*LD2712100092 Tehran IRNA in English 0920 GMT
27 Dec 92*

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 27, IRNA—With the victory of the extremist and nationalist leader of the Serbs, Slobodan Milosevic, hopes for the attainment of peace in the former Yugoslavia has dwindled even further than before, wrote the TEHRAN TIMES daily Sunday.

Milosevic won 56 percent of the votes against his main rival, Milan Panic, who garnered only 34 percent of the votes.

According to the English daily, "many countries including the United States had pinned great hopes on the results of the recent elections in Serbia" expecting that with the victory of Panic, new conditions for the success of the peace negotiations would be created.

"With the assumption of power by the extremist Milosevic those predictions would hardly seem to be realizable."

The daily's editorial, noting that there are only 20 days left to January 15th, the deadline announced by the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) [ICO], wrote that the U.N. intermediaries and the European Community have apparently no new schemes to end the bloodshed in the short term.

"A concerted diplomacy is taking shape among the Islamic countries regarding the measures which are to be taken after January 15, and a general meeting of the heads of the Islamic countries to reach agreement for decisive measures is not unlikely," it predicted.

"Such a measure on the part of the Islamic nations is considered to be in response to the inefficiency and passivity of the Security Council."

The paper in conclusion said that such schemes as "no fly zones" would only give the Serbs a better chance of engaging in massacres with less worries.

Velayati Letter to France's Dumas on Bosnia*LD2912103592 Tehran IRNA in English 0945 GMT
29 Dec 92*

[Text] Paris, Dec. 29, IRNA—Ambassador 'Ali Ahani of Iran met with the Secretary General of the French Foreign Ministry Serge Boidevaix Monday and handed over a message of Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to his French counterpart Roland Dumas on the developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Turning to the Serbs atrocities in Bosnia-Herzegovina and their repeated breach of U.N. Security Council resolutions, Ahani called on the council to take practical measures to stop the Serbs aggressions and violation of Muslims rights in that country.

He said the arms sanctions imposed on the countries of former Yugoslavia had created discriminations and breached the rights of the oppressed nation of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Turning to the situation of the 415 Palestinians expelled from the occupied territories by the Zionist regime, he considered the move as inhuman and contrary to U.N. Security Council resolutions.

He also called on the international community especially the United Nations to take immediate measures to end such inhuman moves by the Zionist regime.

Boidevaix voiced his country's readiness to cooperate towards the full implementation of the Security Council resolutions on enforcement of a no-fly zone over Bosnia, inspecting prisoners camps and ferrying aid to the Bosnian people.

He also termed the situation of the deported Palestinians as deplorable.

Tehran-Paris ties and plans to further consolidate them were also among topics discussed by Ahani and Boidevaix.

Rafsanjani Message to Pope on Attaining Peace*LD2412163592 Tehran IRNA in English 1624 GMT
24 Dec 92*

[Text] Rome, Dec. 24, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Thursday called for cooperation between the Muslim and Christian worlds to put an end to the genocide in Bosnia-Herzegovina and to establish peace and tranquility around the world especially in Palestine, Kashmir and the Caucasus.

The message addressed to the world Catholic leader Pope John Paul II was sent on the eve of the birth anniversary of Prophet Jesus Christ (peace be upon him) [pbuh] and the beginning of the new Christian calendar year 1993.

Hojjat ol-Islam Rafsanjani referring to the situation in different parts of the world including Bosnia-Herzegovina and Palestine, said the life of thousands of innocent people is in jeopardy.

"All believers in God are required to make serious efforts to promote actual peace throughout the world," he told the pope.

The Iranian president expressed hope that in light of the teachings of the Christ (pbuh), and with the assistance of the pope and the international community, steps would be taken in the new Christian year toward realization of international peace and security, and an end to the killing and bloodshed in the world.

Most Christian sects celebrate December 25 as the birth anniversary of Prophet Jesus (pbuh), whom Islam regards as one of the five greatest divine prophets—the

other four being Noah (pbuh), Abraham (pbuh), Moses (pbuh) and the final messenger to mankind Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

Protest on GCC Statement Conveyed to Kuwait

LD2912093292 Tehran IRNA in English 0844 GMT
29 Dec 92

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Dec. 29, IRNA—Kuwait on Monday was informed of Iran's protest against Abu Dhabi statement on the sovereignty of the three Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf. Heads of state of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (PGCC) in their 13th summit last week rejected the Islamic Republic's sovereignty over Abu Musa and the Tunb islands and claimed that they belong to the United Arab Emirates.

The protest was handed to Kuwaiti Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah by Iran's ambassador to Kuwait Hossein Sadeqi in a meeting in Kuwait. The two sides also discussed Iran-Kuwait relations as well as the situation in the Persian Gulf.

The Kuwaiti prime minister said the situation in the Persian Gulf is very "sensitive" and conceded that the enemies of the regional countries are trying to create further tension and aggravate the situation. He underlined that the PGCC countries together with the Islamic Republic should take steps towards easing the tensions.

Velayati, Indian Official Discuss Ayodhya Mosque

LD2912161792 Tehran IRIB Television First Program
Network in Persian 1530 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Text] India's deputy minister for external economic affairs met Foreign Minister Velayati today. Mr. Velayati expressed regret at the destruction of the Babri mosque and declared that the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to cooperate in rebuilding it.

The Indian deputy minister for his part expressed regret over the action of Hindu fanatics in destroying the mosque. He then stressed that the Government of India has undertaken and guaranteed to rebuild the mosque. He said that the Government of India will do everything in its power to prevent similar events from taking place in the future.

Azerbaijani Delegation Visits, Holds Talks

Leader Meets Majles Speaker

LD2912175492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of
Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT
29 Dec 92

[Text] Azerbaijani Vice President [as heard] Guseynov said at a meeting with Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri: Because of its historic status as our neighbor, the Islamic

Republic of Iran is of special importance. For that reason we would like to make use of Iran's experience in all fields.

Referring to the need for unity among regional countries, the Majles speaker expressed gladness about the presence of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the Islamic Conference Organization, the Economic Cooperation Organization, and the sessions of the Caspian Sea littoral states. He expressed the hope that the two countries will be able to maintain their close contact on the international scene and prevent interference by foreigners by preserving regional security.

Communique Released

LD2912222692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of
Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT
29 Dec 92

[Text] Mr. Guseynov, first vice president of the Republic of Azerbaijan, who arrived in Tehran on Monday at the head of a high-level economic and political delegation, left Tehran today for the holy city of Mashhad. He was given an official send-off by Mr. Hasan Habibi, the first vice president.

In an interview with our reporter before leaving Tehran, Mr. Guseynov described the results of his talks with the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran as positive. Referring to the signing of a number of memoranda of understanding between the two countries, he said: On the basis of the memoranda of understanding that we have signed, the Islamic Republic of Iran will become the biggest trading partner with the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Meanwhile, talking to our reporter, Mr. Habibi said that the Republic of Azerbaijan welcomes the move to expand ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran. He added that the two countries have agreed, on the basis of a signed memoranda of understanding, to have close cooperation in such fields as education, science, medical affairs, consular affairs, and other issues. He said that the two countries have also agreed on exports of Iranian gas to the Republic of Azerbaijan and imports of oil by-products from that republic.

At the end of the visit by the Azerbaijani first vice president to Tehran a joint communique was released in the two countries. In the communique the two countries, stressing their long-standing historical, cultural and religious bonds, express the political will of their sovereign governments to expand relations in economic, political, scientific and cultural fields based on good-neighborly principles. Also, stressing the importance of the agreements reached at the first meeting of the two countries joint commission, held in Baku, the two countries stress the need to implement the contents of the memorandum of agreement signed by the two countries.

The two countries also stress the importance of cooperation within the framework of the Organization for Cooperation of Caspian Sea Littoral Countries as well as

the Economic Cooperation Organization. They call for an end to existing crises in the region and in the world, including the Karabakh dispute, through peaceful methods.

On the basis of the communique the two sides agree to set up special facilities, in addition to existing agreements, for border crossings and also to speed up the issuance of visas for nationals of the Republic of Azerbaijan to visit the autonomous Republic of Nakhichevan.

Interior Minister, Velayati Meets

LD2912230492 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT*
29 Dec 92

[Text] Iskender Hamidev, interior minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan, currently in Tehran, met Minister of Foreign Affairs 'Ali Akbar Velayati today. In the meeting Mr. Hamidev said that he is happy to witness the spirit of fraternity in Iran. Offering his appreciation for the wise policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran with regard to the newly independent countries, especially the Republic of Azerbaijan, he said: We sincerely thank you for the generous help you give us to help us overcome our difficulties. He stressed that nothing could harm relations between the two countries, adding: The nation and officials of the Republic of Azerbaijan look on Iran as a brotherly country; they place a great deal of emphasis on expanding and deepening these relations.

Referring to the common bonds between the two countries in such fields as culture, religion and geography, Mr. Velayati said: These common bonds make it incumbent upon us to expand bilateral ties more than ever before. The principle of regional cooperation is among the important principles of our foreign policy.

Guseynov Departs

LD3012100892 *Tehran IRNA in English 0755 GMT*
30 Dec 92

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 30, IRNA—Iran would become the largest trade partner of Azerbaijan in a near future after agreements reached between the two countries are materialized, said Azeri Vice-President Panakh Guseynov here Tuesday before leaving Tehran. Guseynov who arrived here last week said expansion of economic ties would pave the ground for consolidation of political relations.

Iranian Vice-President Hasan Habibi who was present at the airport to see off Guseynov said the two countries have reached major agreements within the framework and principles of mutual ties. Several letters of understanding were signed between the two countries covering areas such as energy, health and hygiene as well as scientific, educational and consular fields. Foreign Ministry Director General Morteza Bank referred to a letter of understanding on barter trade for gas and oil products

as the most important agreement signed during Guseynov's visit. According to the agreement Iran will import oil products from Azerbaijan in return for an annual sale of 250 million cubic metres of gas to that country.

Guseynov in a talk with reporters ruled out any negotiations with Armenia over Karabakh saying that the enclave was an inseparable part of Azerbaijan. Armenia has called for talks with Azerbaijan over the disputed region. Accusing Armenia of occupying part of Azerbaijan territory, he said he was only ready to sit at negotiations table with Armenia to discuss border issues.

Asked about Iran's stand vis-a-vis Karabakh, Habibi said Tehran had not recognised and would not recognise any changes in the borders of regional countries. "We believe that foreigners fan the flame of these disputes," he stressed adding, "we should deprive them of these grounds."

Guseynov left Iran for Baku after paying pilgrimage to the holy shrine of Imam Reza (peace be upon him), the eighth Shiite imam in Mashhad, northeast of Tehran Tuesday night.

Clinton Commitment to Domestic Issues Questioned

LD2912133592 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT*
29 Dec 92

[Text] The support expressed by Democratic President-elect Clinton for the military and interventionist policies of George Bush has increased doubts that he will keep his promise of giving priority to internal difficulties rather than foreign interventions. On this issue our colleague sends a report from the United States:

President-elect Bill Clinton who has gradually appointed members of his cabinet will officially take over from the White House as of 20 January 1993. This is in the context of his promises to the American people of finding a solution to the U.S. economic crisis.

During his election campaign Bill Clinton expressed opposition to many policies of the Bush administration, but in the process of the transfer of power, he is now supporting all the decisions made by the Bush administration including military intervention in Somalia and military measures against Iraq toward forcing Saddam Husayn to accept the UN resolutions.

The new Christian year is starting at a time when tens of thousands of American troops are involved in Somalia and the destruction of an Iraqi fighter plane by the U.S. Air Force has given a new dimension to American disputes in the world scene.

Went Urged To Drop Rushdie 'Puppet Show'

LD2812150092 Tehran IRNA in English 1417 GMT
28 Dec 92

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 28, IRNA—Sentenced apostate Salman Rushdie, who authored the blasphemous work 'The Satanic Verses' is making vain efforts to free himself from his emotional distress under cover of the west's latest propaganda tirade against Islamic Iran. During the past two months the man who openly insulted divine religions and prophets, has travelled to Germany, Norway, Sweden and several other western countries to implore the heads of those states to pressure the Islamic Republic for repealing his death sentence. Last month he met the Foreign Minister of Canada Barbara McDougall. The Canadian minister is the first minister that appeared on television with the sentenced apostate. Recently he said he would go to Paris and the French officials announced that they would officially receive the man who hurt the sentiments of the planet's billion-plus Muslims, and even promised to protect him.

Many political experts look at this French move with doubt and they believe that these kinds of behaviours will only badly affect the political and economic relations with the Islamic Republic. This is while the volume of transactions between Iran and France in the year 1991 reached dfrs 3.5 billion and France is considered one of the biggest commercial partners of Iran.

The Indian born British apostate was, in accordance with divine laws, sentenced to death by the father of the Islamic revolution Imam Khomeyni in February 1989, days after his satanic work spilled Muslim blood in India and Pakistan. The sentence was endorsed later at the Riyadh meeting of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) by Muslim countries.

Rushdie says that the goal of his visits is to make his western backers pressure the government of Iran for reviewing the warrant of his death, but as a diplomat of a Muslim state in Europe pointed out the apostate knows well that the death verdict is irrevocable and his traveling is not done for the purpose of repealing the late imam's decree. In fact, added the diplomat, the satanic author's visits are at the order and coordination of the European Community and within the framework of anti-Iranian propaganda. The diplomat further noted that the Rushdie circus plans in Europe and in North America are designed by British information agencies, because he considers his life over the past 1,400 days like a prisoner sentenced to death as being intolerable. For the wretched apostate the fact that the fate of the death warrant against him is outside the jurisdiction of statesmen is very hard and killing.

Despite this any time that a political or religious personality in the Christian world blames him he sees himself more isolated than ever. Cardinal Joseph Glemp of Poland in his message on the occasion of the new Gregorian calendar year, 1993, attacked Rushdie for

writing the blasphemous book and said "this book has been written in a way that insults the sanctities."

Salman Rushdie who is a second degree citizen of Britain, is desperately trying to portray his death sentence as a political one. In practice he is at the service of western statesmen and he himself is dubious about their intentions. In the face of it he considers the present conditions no better for him than the previous conditions. In a bid to flee from the definite death sentence he has also thought of other ways including change of sex and cosmetic surgery as disclosed by Channel 3 of the French television recently. Despite that informed observers see it impossible for Rushdie to flee justice.

The death sentence against apostate Rushdie was issued [by] the late Imam Khomeyni following the bloodshed that happened in India and Pakistan because of the satanic book. After the issuance of the historical decree against thousands of Muslims all over the world announced preparation for executing it and this proves that the death sentence of Salman Rushdie is merely a divine and Islamic order.

The reporter of the Italian journal CORRIERE DELLA SERA has asked Rushdie "if the hands of the clock were to be turned back would you write the said novel which led to the death of a Japanese translator and attack against another translator in Italy?"

Rushdie replied: "The book was the analysis of the spiritual conditions of persons like me who during the past colonial era changed into the citizen of the former power, England. A person of mixed blood who cannot be accepted with open arms in the second community."

The Italian journal in its question does not point out to the martyrdom of Muslims whose factor was Rushdie's book and Rushdie himself also does not say that if he has been humiliated in England why he has shown enmity with Muslims [as received].

Rushdie with another misleading interpretation rooted in the wrong and direction-bearing views of political circles of the west against the Islamic Republic of Iran says Iran needs technology and to attain that it is obliged to retreat in view of his problem.

A prominent religious personality told IRNA that the apostate naively thinks that if his death sentence that was issued by Imam Khomeyni would be revised in Iran—granting the impossibility—then everything has been solved. He little knows that the death sentence against him is a necessary Islamic principle which no Muslim has the power to doubt. He added insult against a divine prophet (peace be upon him) [pbuh] and one billion-plus Muslims is not a problem that can be solved with the statement of one president or political personality in an Islamic state, and this sentence is not a sentence that allows political or economic transaction on itself. [as received]

All schools of Islamic jurisprudence rule "death penalty" for an apostate born of Muslim parents who insults the Koran and the person of the holy prophet (pbuh), whether or not he repents, because repentance in this particular case is a matter solely concerning divine grace in the hereafter depending on the sincerity of intention involved.

An Iranian diplomat said in this connection that the western leaders have for a long time reached the belief that this is not a political ruling but they take advantage of the condition of Salman Rushdie in their political transactions with the Islamic Republic of Iran and use it as a factor. The diplomat added: "The west is better to let go the puppet show with the first role of Rushdie." Playing with the beliefs of the world's billion-plus Muslims for short term economic and political interests will have grave aftermath for these nations.

This trend in addition to increasing the spite and grudge of the Muslims in connection with the racist and unequal policies of the west will be dangerous for the future of government systems in the Muslim world which also safeguard the interests of the west.

Khamene'i Addresses Literacy Movement Officials

LD2812134792 Tehran IRNA in English 1301 GMT
28 Dec 92

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 28, IRNA—Leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, meeting with officials and teachers of the Literacy Movement here Monday, lauded their success in sharply cutting the number of illiterate people and described it as a "great and worthy" work. "Growth and development of a country will be accomplished more quickly and more easily if lettered and knowledgeable executive arms are used," the supreme leader said. He then called on officials concerned to pay more attention to literacy campaign.

Before the leader's speech, head of the Literacy Movement Hojjat al-Islam Mohsen Qura'ati said that the movement's cadre has entered a new phase of their activities with a goal of enhancing the political, social and cultural knowledge of people. Qura'ati, saying that the number of illiterate people has sharply declined compared to the pre-revolution era, noted that some two million illiterates in 27,000 villages are now being taught to read and write.

Later in the day, Ayatollah Khamene'i received members of the central council of the housing foundation of the Islamic revolution. In the meeting, the supreme leader called for plans to be drawn up to solve the housing problem faced by the society.

Rafsanjani Message to Islamic Students

LD2612141492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT
26 Dec 92

[Excerpts] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani cabled a message this morning to the 22d seminar of the Islamic Students' Society of America and Canada. In the message, he described the scientific jihad for learning and transferring existing conventional sciences in the world—and the improvement and organization of a trustworthy learning infrastructure—as one of the most important ways of compensating for the backwardness of Islamic countries in various dimensions, which is the result of both foreign colonialism and internal factors.

Another part of our president's message states: You mojahedin, who have undertaken emigration in the quest for knowledge to elevate the greatness of Muslims and to enhance their status, are the representatives and ambassadors of our Islamic revolution. It is fitting that you should be models of ideological, revolutionary, and national excellence. [passage omitted]

In another part of our president's message to the seminar of the Islamic Students' Society of America and Canada, the president says: The West's confrontation of the Islamic movement in the world today is under way more clearly and with dangerous dimensions. The destruction of Muslims' historical sites and the violation of the honor [namus] of the Muslims all over the world, especially in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Palestine, require the active presence of Muslims on the international scene. The Islamic Republic of Iran, the source and center of the world of Islam, is facing the increasing threats of the West and its allies as before. Political and propaganda pressure with the club of human rights and democracy, the embargo on technology, and the creation of regional crises, are among the satanic acts of arrogance against the Islamic Republic of Iran. [passage omitted]

Deputy Minister Besharati Holds Talks in Ankara

WA3012155692

For reportage on the visit to Ankara by Deputy Foreign Minister Besharati, including his talks with Turkish Foreign Minister Cetin and Turkish Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Sanberk, see the Turkey section of the 29 December West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Pakistan

India Asked To Reduce Karachi Consulate Staff

BK2912103092 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1000 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Text] Pakistan has asked India to reduce the number of diplomatic staff at its consulate general in Karachi to 20, which should be comprised of four diplomatic and 16 nondiplomatic employees.

India's deputy high commissioner was summoned to the Foreign Office today and informed of the decision of the Government of Pakistan in this regard. He was told to convey to the Indian Government that the consulate general staff members exceeding the above limit should be recalled by 31 January.

[Delhi All India Radio Network in English at 1230 GMT on 29 December reports the following:

["Pakistan has conveyed its unilateral decision to New Delhi to reduce the strength of the consulate general of India in Karachi from 64 to 20. Commenting on the decision, the External Affairs Ministry spokesman said the move will affect people-to-people contact between the two countries, especially between the Mohajir community in Pakistan and their Muslim relatives in India. The spokesman said the step is the culmination of a process of harassment aimed at the Indian consulate general over the past three years."]

Government Authorizes Purchase of Polish Tanks
BK3012105792 Karachi DAWN in English 30 Dec 92 p 20

[Excerpt] Islamabad, Dec 29—The Federal Government has authorised Rs [rupees] seven billion for purchase of tanks by the army. Finance Minister Sarraj Aziz disclosed on Monday.

Talking to "DAWN" he said the "commitment authority" has been issued to the armed forces and the amount would be paid over several years depending on the period of the credit available for the purchase.

Chief of Army Staff, Gen Asif Nawaz, has recently returned from Poland after a detailed study of the T-72 tanks and apparently the Government has also agreed to allow the purchase.

Sartaj Aziz said the total price of the tanks would be spread over several years and it would thus not increase the defence budget substantially.

"This sanction does not mean that Rs seven billion would be added to the defence budget in one year", the Finance Minister explained, when asked whether the huge amount would upset the budget projections.

The Government, informed sources said, is under pressure of the international donor agencies and Western nations, besides Japan, to cut the defence expenditure.

Recent reports about a freeze on defence expenditure at the present level of Rs 82 billion were denied by the army and the Government.

The Polish tanks would approximately cost Pakistan about one million dollars each, sources said, but the deal would include a suppliers credit payable in several years. [passage omitted]

President Addresses Parliament 22 Dec

BK2312110192 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 23 Dec 92 pp 9, 10

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 22—The following is the text of President Ghulam Ishaq Khan's address to the joint session of Parliament here on Tuesday [22 December].

Honourable Members of Parliament:

Assalam-o-Alaikum! [Peace be upon you!]

I am pleased to have the honour of addressing this august House once again. This House is not only the highest constitutional institution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan but also the most distinct symbol of the nation's abiding commitment to representative form of government as also the most credible evidence of national consensus on Pakistan and democracy being inseparable.

The president's annual address to this respectable House is not a mere formality but a purposeful constitutional requirement. Through it, one organ of the State, i.e. the Executive, presents before another the Legislature [as published]—an account of its performance and, at the beginning of the new parliamentary year, takes the representatives of the people into confidence about its future policies and plans and invites them to consideration of and discussion on national issues and problems for which all are to work together.

Honourable Members:

Struggle for democracy in Pakistan has had a long history but democracy itself is still rather young. The nation had all along regarded democracy as its destiny, but despite having achieved it, the people do from time to time feel shaky, lose faith and are overcome by doubts and a sense of uncertainty. The basic cause of this is the fact that democracy is still merely a form of government for us and has not become a way of life. We have not yet developed a democratic culture characterized by accommodation, tolerance, large-heartedness and mutual respect—a culture in which everybody's legitimate rights are secure and everyone not only feels obliged to do his duty and discharge his obligations according to the Constitution and the Law, but is also ready at all times to account for his actions and willingly submit himself for accountability. This is what democracy means and this is what our religion and our ethical values also demand.

The nation had expected that its elected representatives and institutions would rise above momentary expediencies and narrow interests and, without mental reservations, play their due role to ensure that the sapling of democracy planted after countless sacrifices and a long and arduous struggle grows into a strong and stout tree. But regrettably, these expectations still remain unfulfilled. We have not yet been able to establish enough healthy traditions in our democratic institutions nor have we always maintained the sanctity of these institutions. At times, we have held personal animosities and party concerns above national interests and quite often

resorted to a confrontational course, putting aside the golden principles of sober discussion and reasoned dialogue. Whatever the reasons and whosoever to blame, this behaviour did not remain confined to the House and was also taken to the streets. What is it that is not being done in the name of democracy? And nobody pauses to think how and in what manner can such a behaviour raise the prestige and dignity of the House or serve the cause of democracy.

In my address to the House last year I had spoken about the role of the Treasury and Opposition benches and pointed to the constitutional ways of effecting a political change. I had submitted that "the Constitution has provisions not only for a change of government but even for the president's impeachment. Following procedures laid down in the Constitution, the Opposition can bring about even the most substantial change whenever it so wishes. This is the constitutional way. This is the democratic tradition. This is what is known as the self-correcting mechanism of parliamentary democracies. But if the desire for change grows so intense that it sweeps away constitutional requirements, moral disciplines and democratic traditions coming in the way and, to that end, a resort is made to totally unjustified criticism and wholly baseless accusations, such a behaviour can only be dubbed as a deliberate attempt to undermine the constitutional institutions. The point to reflect is: If the credibility of every institution is put in jeopardy today and people's confidence in each institution is eroded, what will happen tomorrow?"

If you permit and if a statement of general principles is not misconstrued as personal criticism, I may refer here to the elements I had pointed out in a speech few months back as being essential for promoting and strengthening the democratic order in its true sense as also for restoring and reinforcing people's confidence in representative institutions: candidates qualifications and the hijacking of elections with the help of money.

I had said: "The success of the democratic system is normally dependent upon the character, ability, and talent of the elected representatives. It is only through the spread of education, maturing of political consciousness, and holding of regular elections on time that the masses gain the ability to choose men of character who are committed to their spiritual and cultural values, have an understanding of national and international issues, and are capable of solving problems. However, the Constitution too contains elaborate provisions to let only men of character come forward in the fields. But regrettably, no system could so far be evolved to test the candidates at the touchstone of all the qualifications laid down in the Constitution."

Similarly, there is no satisfactory mechanism available today to check the massive use of wealth in elections and keep election expenses within reasonable limits. It is a common complaint that contesting elections has now become too expensive a proposition even for the well-to-do to afford, let alone the common man. One result of

this is that although democracy is known to be "government of the people, by the people, for the people," our electoral process is virtually becoming an exclusive prerogative of the rich and the privileged. How can then the common man be absolutely sure that his concerns will also be properly reflected and his class interests protected in the elected bodies?

You can differ with these views, but if you agree with their general thrust, it becomes incumbent upon you to review electoral laws with a view to making the electoral process more effective and more representative so that ordinary people, who fulfill the constitutional qualifications, can also make it to the House and all class of people are given, to the extent possible, proper representation in the elected bodies.

Democracy marches ahead on the wheels of democratic institutions. And democratic institutions are neither the bequest of anybody nor can anyone singlehandedly make them strong. This is something for which all have to work together and cooperate with each other, with an open heart and open mind, keeping nothing but the larger interests of the country and the nation in view. If differences stand in the way, reconciliation can be sought while remaining within the limits of the constitution and the Law. And the best forum for this, in my opinion, is the Parliament. Political issues should be settled politically through political institutions. Such settlements alone are enduring and enjoy the people's approval and support.

In this context, let me also submit that there always are certain national issues and priorities where there can just not be any room for disagreement. For example, who can disagree on the threats to country's integrity or the need of a strong defence capability to meet them? What difference of opinion can there be on the importance of regional peace and cooperation? How can there be two opinions about the necessity of national unity or the urgency of eliminating prejudices of various kinds? Who can disagree on the need to check population explosion to promote education, to eradicate narcotics, to give women a respectable place in society, and to root out such social evils as bribery, Sifarish [recommendations for jobs, contracts, privileges by influential people] and nepotism? At least on these and other similar national priorities having a direct bearing on country's undisputed interests, there can and must be national consensus. But, unfortunately, whatever may be the reason, We do not stand together even on a matter of religious concern like the Babri Masjid. Are political differences really so sacred that they cannot be subordinated even to genuine national interests?

Honourable Members:

Here I would like to assure you, and through you the nation, that negative politics and confrontation may adversely affect the credibility and effect of democratic institutions but there appears to be no reason to harbour doubts and apprehensions about their future. The need

and scope to improve their performance are certainly there, but if the tender age and inexperience of our representative system is taken into account, if the general standard of political ethics prevalent in the world today is kept in view and if the heap of problems bequeathed from the past and the country's resource constraints are taken into consideration, then the performance of the present democratic institutions cannot be called unsatisfactory.

Take the Parliament for example. The facts show that during the last twelve months, each of the two Houses has discharged its legislative and other responsibilities reasonably well during this period. 95 bills were presented, of which 35 were passed and the rest are at various stages of consideration. Parliamentary committees have been set up and are functioning satisfactorily. The active role played and keen interest taken in the members of both sides of the House is certainly a matter of satisfaction. Questions asked and motions of various type moved in the two Houses to highlight people's problems and national concerns and the ensuing debates too were of a fair standard. Enthusiastic interest was also shown in taking stock of Government's performance and providing it with guidance. However, it may not be out of place to add that in these matters the nation expects greater sobriety, depth and toleration from its representatives. It is its wish that even in the weakest moments of emotional excitement, this august House does not turn into a public meeting place. Similarly, the ever-growing complaints of lack of quorum and the trend of ministers absenting themselves from the House do not leave a good impression on the people. The people have sent the elected representatives to represent them in the Parliament. And it is the Parliament that has to be their first priority. Likewise, the ministers have to seek guidance from popular sentiments expressed in the Parliament and have to be accountable to the people through this very forum. They, therefore, have to show a more responsible attitude towards parliamentary sessions.

Here I would also like to discourage the tendency of legislation through Ordinances. An Ordinance is promulgated on Government's advice and has to be laid before the House on the first available opportunity. The House has every right to either pass or reject it. The House can reject it even by a simple Resolution. Moreover, if an Ordinance is not passed as a Bill by the House within four months after its promulgation, or if it is not meanwhile repromulgated, it automatically lapses. The point I wish to make is that promulgation of Ordinances is undoubtedly a constitutional procedure. However, it is the intent of the Constitution that this method should be resorted to only in unavoidable circumstances and only to meet urgent requirements. To take Ordinances as a substitute for the time-consuming and cumbersome procedure of parliamentary legislation is not a very positive attitude. The powers and prestige of the Legislature demand that this procedure should not be made a routine. True that some Ordinances are such that their lapse may create an unacceptable legal vacuum. These

have, therefore, to be issued again and again. Ordinances thus repromulgated during the last year totalled nine. To overcome this difficulty, may I suggest for the consideration of the House that once an Ordinance is brought before it as a Bill, the House may remain in constant session till it is adopted or rejected. For this, the House will obviously have to either sit for more days or put in longer hours every day. I am sure you can gladly bear such inconvenience.

Honourable Members:

The last year was a difficult year for world economy, especially for the developing countries. While the after-effects of the crumbling of the old structure of international relations and those of the Gulf War lingered on, the world economy also suffered a recession. The international economic order continued to be as unjust as before, and there was a general decrease in foreign aid flows to developing nations.

These negative factors necessarily had their impact on Pakistan also. Meanwhile, the country had to face another challenge. The worst floods in nation's history and torrential rains caused massive destruction. Hundreds of valuable human lives were lost, thousands of cattle died; thousands of houses were destroyed; standing crops were damaged; roads were washed away; and communication and irrigation networks were devastated. In dealing with this national tragedy the Government showed high administrative ability and demonstrated an admirable sense of responsibility and urgency particularly in relief, rehabilitation, and reconstruction work. Our Armed Forces also rose to the occasion with their traditional sense of duty and won the nation's gratitude.

Despite the aforesaid difficulties and hardships, the Government registered notable performance in the economic field. The process of development was carried forward according to set priorities. The new approach and new strategy adopted from the very beginning to accelerate the pace of development were adhered to. The economy was freed from unnecessary restrictions and the policy of privatisation which forms an important part of Government's economic reforms, was speedily implemented.

You may recall that in my last address, I had emphasised the need to keep the privatisation process transparent and to guard against the operation of monopolies. Although doubts are even now being expressed about the process by certain quarters, it cannot be denied that special care is now being taken to eliminate complaints of partiality, discrimination, and favoritism. It is also encouraging that, while privatising, care is taken to safeguard the employees' rights. I am also happy to know that a new law for monopoly control is under preparation. Checking concentration of wealth conforms to Islamic teachings and is also essential for the society's common good. Attention also needs to be paid to the

protection of consumers' interests and to the framing of necessary law for this purpose.

The results of Government's economic reforms and measures that have come to light so far do indicate a healthy trend. According to figures given in the Budget, the rate of growth of national income during the last financial year increased from 5.6 percent to 6.4 percent. Exports grew by 12.6 percent, despite recession in the world. Foreign Exchange Reserves crossed the one billion dollar mark on June 30. There was stability in the Stock Market. Important projects were stated in the power, communication and transport sectors with a view to improving and modernizing necessary infrastructure for development. Self Employment and Public Transport Schemes were launched to tackle unemployment. *Bair ul-Mal* was instituted with a huge allocation to help and support the poor and the needy. An integrated Social Action Programme involving a heavy cost was initiated to provide primary education, basic health, population welfare, safe drinking water, sewerage and sanitation facilities in rural and less-developed areas. This Programme is being implemented in collaboration with local population and local organizations.

The impact of those policies and steps will obviously be felt only with the passage of time. To make up for the backlog of neglect spread over decades, these policies should be carried out speedily but, at the same time, with caution and moderation. It must always be kept in mind that "haste" is not a substitute for "speed." The two have different connotations and can produce totally different—even opposite—results.

In this context, the august House must also be aware of the fact that efforts to solve microeconomic problems can be really fruitful and their results enduring only if serious attempts are made to simultaneously overcome macroeconomic difficulties also. According to the Budget, during the current financial year (1992-1993), there was a deficit of Rs. 89 billion to meet development and non-development expenditure. The Government has resolved to bring it down to Rs. 65 billion by cutting expenditure by Rs. 6.5 billion and raising additional resources of Rs. 17.5 billion. It must be the wish of you all that these targets of reduction in expenditure and increase in revenue are achieved and budgetary deficit does not exceed the proposed limit i.e. five percent of national income. However, figures for the first quarter of the financial year indicate that, if effective corrective measures are not taken, we may be in for disappointment and the government may have to resort to more deficit financing. This House should help and guide the Government in warding off such a contingency.

Similarly, there is a need to make greater efforts to reduce the balance of payments gap, which is widening by the year. This imbalance is the product of unavoidable causes spread over a long space of time. This is not the occasion to speak at length about steps needed to bring it down. However, it may be pertinent to briefly mention two things. The first is that we must change our

lifestyle and our consumption habits and learn to keep our expenditure—development or non-development—within means. We should adopt simple and austere living in the real sense both at personal and government levels. This is what our religion teaches us. This is also a dire and urgent national need. By adopting ostentatious styles, we cannot conceal the reality of our backwardness and poverty.

On the other hand, we should seriously try to increase our production and productivity at much higher a rate than that of population growth. To this end, we will have to expand, diversify and modernize our industrial base, providing additional resources for the purpose. Our exports, particularly those of value-added products, will thus start growing automatically.

In the context of economic performance, what has been a matter of particular concern for the common man and requires urgent attention is the price hike. The picture that emerges from official statistics is somewhat encouraging. But even according to them, the rate of increase in the prices of items of daily use of the common man has been higher than the general upward trend of prices. This was probably so because our Consumer Prices Index (CPI) does not presently fully cover all the basic needs of the common man. The fast-changing situation demands that the periodicity and coverage of Household Surveys, on which the CPI is based, should be increased. There is no denying that deafness is neither a problem of recent origin nor peculiar to Pakistan. A number of countries are faced with it. But the problem cannot be wished away by offering explanations. It requires solid action. The Government has recently launched the Food Stamps Scheme, which is a welcome step. However, for more substantial results, the Monetary Policy will have to be made more stringent and more effective, credit expansion will have to be kept within safe limits, and deliberate attempts will have to be made to use the Monetary Policy in general as an instrument to control inflation. Steps will also have to be taken to strengthen and improve the supply side. Special projects will have to be launched to increase production of commodities of daily use and the produce of minor crops, like vegetables and pulses, as well as for their preservation and storage. There is also a need to promote small industries, producing consumer goods, giving them more concessions than are available even to general agriculture and big industries. It is also essential to make special marketing arrangements so as to ensure timely and uninterrupted supply of essential items and to keep their prices stable. If this House applies its collective wisdom, I am sure it can provide invaluable guidance to the Government to take the necessary steps.

Honourable Members:

One regrettable aspect of our development scene has been the gap between economic and social progress. Real progress is one which is reflected simultaneously in economic statistics and social indicators. With your

permission, I would like to briefly point out some of the social sector problems requiring urgent attention.

- Increasing the rate of literacy.
- Timely action is also needed to protect the environment and save it from pollution. If we fail to act now, the problem, whose worrisome effects have already begun to appear, will soon assume as alarming a dimension as in the industrialised world.
- Ensuring a respectable place for women in society and arranging for their adequate representation in national life is also an unavoidable call of the time, which must be heeded.
- Meaningful progress on priority basis should also be made towards eliminating the curse of corruption. Bribery, Sifarish, nepotism, embezzlement and other forms of corruption have since long plagued the society. We have been strongly condemning it and also making tall claims of eradicating it. But, practically, not much has been achieved so far. The causes of corruption should be analysed and legal and administrative steps taken to remove the weaknesses of the system which pave the way for corruption.

I may add, however, that some progress has been made towards tackling some of these problems. The new Education Policy, the Housing Policy, the integrated Social Action Programme and the National Conservation Strategy are steps in that direction. There is a need to carry these policies forward in all seriousness and to implement them with speed. In this context, this House is expected to constantly guide the Government on the one hand and, on the other, to frame laws, where needed, to make official efforts more productive.

I deem it my duty to remind you here that satisfactory answers to our social problems lie only in the Islamic order. The law handed down to us by Humanity's Greatest Benefactor (P.B.U.H.) [peace be upon Him] alone can guarantee a just, equitable, peaceful, clean, progressive, welfare society. But, regrettably, the quest for Islamic solutions to our problems is not being undertaken with the same sincerity, zeal and vigour as is warranted by national aspirations and popular sentiments. A number of recommendations of the Islamic Ideology Council have not been implemented so far, though some of them directly deal with problems for which proper solutions are being sought. The National Commissions set up to bring our economy and education in conformity with Islam have not yet completed their task. If we keep putting off the obligation of moulding our national life according to our sacred ideology, our energies will be wasted in useless experimentations and our problems will keep piling up.

Honourable members:

May it be economic progress or social development, peace and tranquility is a prerequisite to realise all

dreams. During the previous years, law and order situation and incidence of serious crimes, e.g. dacoities and kidnappings for ransom, had assumed alarming proportions in certain parts of the country. Although this trend was noticed in other regions also, the Province of Sindh was particularly in the grip of growing lawlessness and the situation there was getting out of the control of civil administration. Ultimately, the Provincial Government had to request the Federal Government to call the Armed Forces in aid of civil authorities, as provided in the Constitution, to quell lawlessness. It was not a pleasant decision; but the Government could not have been remiss in its fundamental duty to protect citizens' life and property and restore peace and order. Therefore, rising above political expediencies and considerations, it courageously launched the Operation Clean-Up in Sindh and took every legal and administrative step required for its success. By the grace of Allah, the Operation has yielded positive results. Although lawlessness has not been totally put down, general law and order has improved considerably. The rate of heinous crimes has registered substantial decrease. Life has returned to commercial centers and highways have, by and large, been rendered safe. The credit for this success goes, in the main, to the Armed Forces, who extended full support to the civil administration in restoring law and order. The nation greatly appreciates the role played by them.

Let me make it clear that Operation Clean-up is a temporary process. As soon as the situation comes fully under the control of civil administration and alternative arrangements are in place to fill the vacuum that might be created by troops withdrawal, the Army will be recalled under a phased programme, for its real and permanent place is the frontier which it has to defend.

Honourable Members:

The process of massive transformation of the world scene continues. However, the new world order, which we were told is to emerge in the wake of the end of ideological confrontation and the demolition of walls dividing humanity into hostile camps, is nowhere in sight. A new pattern of international relations is certainly emerging, which is more or less free from tensions of the Cold War, but it too is marred by the same old clashes of self-interests and the absence of such values as justice and fairplay. Pakistan too cannot but be affected by these changes and by the new trends and complexion of international relations, particularly when some of them concern our own region. The Government is watching the situation carefully and it is our endeavour that, while remaining firm on principles and upholding our values, we should take full advantage of the evolving situation to further our national interests.

We will continue to support an international order based on the principles of equality, justice, mutual respect and cooperation. We shall remain committed to the UN Charter and keep playing an active role in the world

body and at other multinational forums for the promotion of peace, freedom, progress and human rights and for the just and amicable resolution of international disputes. Pakistan has recently been elected to the Security Council. As member of this important body, it will be our ceaseless effort to work to the best of our ability to serve the collective good of mankind and to promote positive and healthy values in international relations.

In our sincere desire and constant endeavour to foster peace, security, and cooperation, the focus of our attention will continue to be on our own region. We wish to have better and closer relations with India. It is our untiring effort to find honourable settlement, on the basis of principles, to all bilateral disputes, including Kashmir. During the last two years, the Prime Ministers of Pakistan and India have held a number of meetings. However, substantial progress could not be made on any fundamental issue. Even so, we will persist in our endeavors in the hope that, sooner or later, India will take to the right path of accepting hard realities and their logical dictates in the larger interest of peace and security and for the indispensable cause of good neighbourliness.

Kashmir is the biggest, thorniest and most sensitive issue between the two countries. Without its resolution, neither can regional peace be guaranteed nor meaningful progress made towards the settlement of other bilateral problems. The ongoing wholesale repression and the brutal attempt to quash the freedom movement in Kashmir are a cause of concern to the whole world. The way India is trampling human rights through state terrorism and the cunningness with which it is trying to put the blame for it on others, cannot fool the world for long. Pakistan considers it its duty to extend to the Kashmiri brothers political, moral, and diplomatic support. It shall continue to extend such support till such time as the people of the Occupied State are given the right of self-determination. But the heart-breaking incident of the demolition of the Babri Masjid and the large scale massacre of Muslims in anti-Muslim riots that followed have unmasked the real face of repression and we fully express our sense of grief, indignation, and outrage over this most shameful and abhorrent act. The world should not view the desecration of the Babri Masjid as a bilateral matter between India and Pakistan, for it concerns basic human rights, protection of which is the responsibility of the entire world. It is a challenge to the religious honour and pride of one billion Muslims. Reflecting the nation's sentiments, the Government has raised the issue at the United Nations, Organisation of Islamic Conference, and other forums with a view to forcing India to fulfill its obligations of safeguarding the rights of the minorities, their places of worship and other holy sites, in conformity with the spirit of International Law, traditions of civilized governments, and provisions of the Liequat-Nehru Pact.

Protection of minorities is, however, not a responsibility of India alone. It is as much a constitutional, humanitarian, and Islamic obligation of ours. And it is a matter of great shame and regret that some of our countrymen,

in their frenzy, have been guilty of disregarding this obligation. It is sad to have to say that contrary to our religious teachings and moral traditions, they could not control their emotions and ignored the demands of religious tolerance. We must show patience and forbearance and must ensure that such sorry incidents never occur again. We are also under an obligation to console our minorities, to assure them of peacefully living together like brothers as always, and compensate them, as early as possible, for the losses they have suffered.

If India's obduracy and chauvinistic policies have resulted, on the one hand, in inhuman oppression in Kashmir and, more recently, in the Muslim bloodbath throughout the length and breadth of the country, on the other these very policies are standing in the way of relieving South Asia of the fears of nuclear devastation. Pakistan supports nuclear non-proliferation throughout the world and has been sincerely and ceaselessly working to keep this region in particular free from nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction. Pakistan believes that this problem can only be resolved in a regional context. It has, therefore, made a number of concrete proposals to that end, to which India has not so far responded positively.

India's non-cooperation notwithstanding, we will persist in our efforts to check nuclear proliferation in our region because our commitment to this cause is based on sincerity and not on expediency. However, we cannot obviously be expected to take unilateral steps.

Honorable Members:

To our west, the Afghan nation is engaged in dealing with the aftermath of the historic victory of their glorious jihad. As a result of Pakistan's efforts, the Peshawar Accord was concluded in April last and interim mojahedin Government was formed in Afghanistan. The first two phases of the Accord have been by and large successfully implemented. It is now our hope that the Afghan leadership will demonstrate its traditional wisdom and smoothly complete the last phase as well, by amicably resolving political differences through a representative Shura and form a strong and united government which, in turn, starts reconstruction. We believe in the freedom, unity, and territorial integrity of fraternal Afghanistan and will continue to oppose any outside interference that weakens their government or undermines their national solidarity.

Restoration of peace and security and the formation of a stable government in Afghanistan are essential for the return of refugees from Pakistan as also for forging a tangible cooperative relationship a tangible cooperative relationship with the newly independent republics of Central Asia. The independence of these Muslim states has paved the way for the revival of their thousand-year-old social links with us, which had remained severed for a long time due to artificially elected political and ideological walls. We are establishing relations with these countries on a bilateral as well as regional basis. We

have stretched out to them the hand of friendship and cooperation in all sincerity and they have grasped it with warmth and affection. The Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) of Pakistan, Iran, and Turkey, has recently been enlarged to include Afghanistan and six Central Asian Republics and thus transformed into a wider regional grouping. Emergence of regional economic blocks is a world-wide phenomenon. It is the call of the hour that we, too, should try to secure a respectable place for ourselves in the evolving scenario of global economic relations. The new shape of ECO, its new direction and new dynamism are a response to this very call. It will not only put fresh life into old ties but will also open up new vistas of cooperation and collaboration among 300 million people inhabiting a very large area. What we need to ensure is that we do not squander away this historic opportunity by being complacent with ritualistic discussions and mere paper work. Rather, such comprehensive and practicable projects of economic and social cooperation should be immediately launched as well, on the one hand, to link up the member countries [so] that geographical distances between them are rendered meaningless and, on the other hand, to exploit the complementarities of their economies and resources that they are enabled to stand on their own feet.

Pakistan's relations with the Muslim countries are structured on the Islamic principle of all Muslims being one nation and on Islam's emphasis on brotherhood and cooperation among its followers. We are bound together with them in bilateral ties as well as through the instrumentality of the Organisation of Islamic Conference. It is our constant endeavour to further strengthen these ties and to make them more meaningful and more fruitful. During the last year, contact was maintained at the highest level with Saudi Arabia, the Gulf States, and Iran, Turkey and Bangladesh. There was complete identity of views between us. These contacts have resulted in significant measures for the further promotion of bilateral relations.

Our best wishes and ceaseless efforts will remain devoted to the cause of Muslim unity, which is not only ordained by our faith but also warranted by the prevailing world situation. But what a tragedy that the Muslims continue to lack in unity. To me, it is due to lack of unity among the Muslims that they are today confronted with problems of all sorts in various parts of the globe. In some regions, they are dying of famine and drought and, in other, being worn out by civil wars. Somewhere they are being denied their inalienable right of freedom and self-determination and somewhere else organised attempts are underway to exterminate their national existence. What is happening in Bosnia-Herzegovina today is a challenge to the Islamic World. But disunited as it is, it is in no position to respond to it in a befitting manner. The rest of the world too is a prisoner of its own expediencies. Consequently, the unfortunate and helpless Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina continue to languish in unending misery.

Honourable Members:

Our great neighbour China is, and will always be, a dependable friend. The changing international climate cannot affect this relationship. It is as strong as always and is getting stronger day by day. We are proud of this relationship and consider it to be a pillar of regional peace and security and balancing factor in the changing world situation.

Pakistan's relations with Russia are entering a new phase and we have been assured by them that the erstwhile hostile attitude towards Pakistan and the discrimination against it have come to an end with the demise of the Soviet Union. Accordingly, we are looking forward with confidence to the promotion of relations between our two countries, lending new dimensions to bilateral cooperation to mutual benefit.

Relations with the United States have had a key place in our foreign policy. The two countries have enjoyed old and close relations, which came under a cold spell in recent years. Without compromising on principles and keeping our national interests in view, we desire to bring our relations back to normal. We know that even now certain anti-Pakistan lobbies are busy in conspiracies to do irreparable damage to our relations. However, we strongly hope that the new American leadership will not allow itself to be influenced by these machinations; will be more realistic in appreciating our point of view; and will see Pakistan's security concerns, its development programmes and its efforts to strengthen democracy in their correct perspective.

May it be the United States and Europe or Japan and other economic powers of the Far East, we wish to have honourable and dignified friendship and cooperation with all; and will continue to foster and reinforce friendly ties with them.

Honourable Members:

The Pakistani nation has seen many ups and downs in the last forty-five years. It has witnessed periods of peace and stability and has also been through turmoil and crises. At times, it reaped the fruits of collective struggle and at times paid for collective mistakes. But under no circumstances—favourable or adverse—did the nation lose sight of its destination or let its resolve to march ahead weaken. It had had the vision of an enlightened and progressive Islamic welfare society at the time of Independence. It still cherishes, and shall always cherish, that dream. Striving to translate it into reality is the collective responsibility of this house. Presently there stand in its way political confrontations as well as economic difficulties. Prejudices and disharmony also hinder the way. So do self-seeking and selfish attitudes. Internal chaos and external conspiracies make the path even more arduous. But with so many right-thinking people around—who care and feel concerned—there is no reason to despair. What is needed is the conviction of truth. If that comes, hearts and minds will automatically undergo a transformation. I pray to Almighty Allah to

turn our hearts to the only and the ultimate Truth, with which is associated the future of this country and this nation.

Pakistan Painsdabad. [Long live Pakistan.]

Editorial Views Speech

BK2312122692 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 23 Dec 92 p 10

[Editorial: "More of 'Muchness' of the 'Sameness'"]

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has spoken to the joint session of the parliament and has not obliged the opposition. The presidential address, in any case, is not supposed to be controversial; at best, one has to read between the lines to see if any friction exists between the president and the government. He has routinely expressed himself satisfied with the working of the two houses, praised the government for its legislative assiduity, pointed to some 'social' and 'economic' ills that Pakistan has to fight against, and admitted that the government has not been able to hold to its austerity plans to cut down the deficit. As a sop to the opposition, he has recommended the democratic panacea of political dialogue, and asked the leaders to place their grievances before the parliament and not take to other methods of protest.

There was nothing unusual about the address. One doesn't know why the opposition thought he would break with the past and do something unusual this time. The only difference this time was that the opposition had absented itself and he was able to finish his speech without any catcalls. The routine gives the impression that the 'troika' is holding together, and the president sees nothing wrong with the IJI [Islamic Jamhoori Ittehad, Islamic Democratic Alliance]. It is another matter that two years ago, after similarly finding nothing wrong with the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] in his speech, he had proceeded to dismiss it. The PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] has its feud with both the president and the IJI, but its friends in the NDA [National Democratic Alliance] have seemed to think that the president should not be 'let off the hook' as he might 'oblige' by sacking yet another prime minister. If this was the strategy, it has not paid off. Then some PDA 'insiders' have been talking of frictions among the 'troika,' hinting at the possibility of the GHQ [General Headquarters] weighing in for a 'change.' That dread possibility, too, has now receded into the background if at all it was there in the first place. However, that is not to say that there were no grounds for opposition protest. There are some concessions that the PDA and the president have to make to get the opposition to cooperate in the parliament and to prevent the system from settling down as a de facto one-party rule. It develops now that Islamabad doesn't think it is under any pressure to make these concessions. That is wrong. What is at stake is not the survival of the opposition, but democracy itself. Every day that passes sees the government becoming tougher on its opponents

and critics. While it busily isolated the domestic opposition from all the supposed centres of power within the political system, it is as quickly isolating itself internationally. It might at this stage blame the PDA and its leader Benazir Bhutto for this isolation abroad; later on, as it pursues international isolation on the basis of its enmity with the PDA, it will have only itself to blame. The president may, in fact, feel happy over this development, but Mian Nawaz Sharif, whose entire political programme is predicated on external linkages, will be a very unhappy man having to face the world after having beaten the opposition down at home. It is in his interest to reach some accommodations with the opposition. This is what the opposition should keep in mind as it decides whom to 'let off the hook' in its protest campaign.

President Assures Full Protection of Minorities

BK2712151692 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 27 Dec 92

[Text] The president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, has assured the minorities that all possible protection will continue to be provided to them as guaranteed by Islam and enshrined in the country's Constitution. The president was talking to a delegation of MNA's [Members of National Assembly] and MPA's [Members of Provincial Assembly] from Sindh in Islamabad today. They also included minorities' representatives. The president deplored that on the day of national protest over the demolition of Babri Masjid [mosque], some people in Pakistan were carried away by emotions and damaged some Hindu temples. He assured the delegation that all the losses suffered as a result of mob action would be compensated for.

The minorities' representatives in the delegation thanked Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan for reiterating assurances of full protection to the minorities. They said the minorities greatly appreciate the fact that they have always lived in peace in Pakistan and hoped they would continue to live like brothers in future also.

Construction Begins on Second Nuclear Power Plant

BK2712085392 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 27 Dec 92 p 12

[Excerpts] Islamabad—Work on Pakistan's second nuclear power plant, the 300 MW Chashma Nuclear Power Plant (CHASNUPP), started on Saturday at Chashma in District Mianwali. [passage omitted]

The ceremony on Saturday was witnessed by Ambassador of the People's Republic of China in Pakistan, Mr. Zhou Qiang and chairman Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, Dr. Ishtiaq Ahmad.

According to the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, the first concrete pouring in the reactor building of the Chashma Nuclear Power Plant is expected to take place some time in August 1993 to be attended by "prominent

personalities." The significance of this plant and the strong ties with China are such that expectations are that either the President or the Prime Minister would attend.

The nuclear power plant, according to the PAEC, is being supplied under a contract signed in Beijing on December 31, 1991. The contract went into effect in February this year when down-payment was made to China by Pakistan. [page omitted]

Interestingly, CHASNUPP will be an upgraded version of China's Qinshan nuclear power station which started producing electricity a year ago. The new plant will also have upgraded safety and efficiency features. [page omitted]

Australia Supports Sharif Nuclear Proposal

BK2812112492 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 28 Dec 92

[Text] Australia has supported the prime minister's five-point proposal offered to India to make the region nuclear-free. This was stated by the minister of state for economic affairs, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, in Islamabad today on his return from a visit to Australia. He said Australian authorities, supporting the proposal, hoped that within its framework both India and Pakistan would resolve the issue of nuclear proliferation.

Sharif on Anti-Nuclear Propaganda

BK2512144892 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 25 Dec 92

[Text] The prime minister, Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has said the nation has rededicated itself to the ideals of the Qaid-i-Azam and rejected those who are against Constitution, rule of law, and democracy. The prime minister was addressing a seminar organized by the Pakistan Muslim League to celebrate the 116th birthday of the Qaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah in Lahore today. The seminar was also addressed by the Punjab chief minister, Federal Ministers Syed Ghous Ali Shah and Jam Mohammad Yusuf.

Addressing the seminar, the prime minister said that after a long time his government has taken concrete steps to achieve the objectives of the creation of Pakistan. He said we are moving on the path of self-reliance based on our resources.

However, the prime minister regretted that there is still a political party whose leader is implicitly endorsing hostile propaganda about Pakistan's peaceful nuclear program. He said the designs of this party are now fully exposed and the people of Pakistan have rejected it for ever.

He said his government and party are endeavoring to bring the country on the path of development, and schemes for economic uplift are being implemented. Roads and highways are being built and new education

policy has been announced, and solid steps are being adopted to end injustice and oppression.

Pakistan, Saudi Arabia Seek To End Afghan Impasse

BK2512145492 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 25 Dec 92

[Text] In Afghanistan, the ambassadors of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have held talks with different warring groups aimed at reaching a peaceful settlement of the impasse prevailing in Kabul. The ambassadors jointly held a meeting with Pir Seyyed Ahmad Gaylani of the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan, Afghan Foreign Minister Mr. Soleyman Gaylani, Afghan Defense Minister Mr. Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, and Engineer Nasim Mehdi, a representative of General Dostam. The Pakistani and Saudi ambassadors are scheduled to meet Engineer Golboddin Hekmatyar at (Chahrasiah) in Lower Province this evening.

Meanwhile, an official spokesman in Kabul has reiterated the government's resolve to hold the meeting of Shura-ye Hal Wa Aqd [Resolution and Settlement Council]. He said about 1,200 out of the total of 1,309 members of the Shura have already arrived in Kabul.

Reconstruction, Repair Work on Temples Begins

BK2512143492 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 25 Dec 92

[Text] Construction and repair work on temples damaged during rallies held to protest the demolition of Babri Masjid [mosque] has begun. Instructions in this regard were given by the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif. Reconstruction of one such temple is being carried out in consultation with representatives of minorities. Funds for repair and reconstruction of temples were provided by the Federal Ministry of Minorities Affairs. Efforts are going on in full swing to complete the work as early as possible. Compensation is also being paid to the affected families. The chief organizer of Pakistan Balmiki Sabha [Hindu organization] has expressed his gratitude to the government for issuing immediate orders for the repair of temples. He said this demonstrates that the government is fully alive to its responsibilities to safeguard the rights of the minorities, who are contributing their share in the progress and development of their motherland.

Mosque Demolition 'Aggression' Against Muslims

BK2712162892 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 27 Dec 92

[Text] The Senate resumed its session this afternoon after a two-day recess. The session continued its debate on the situation arising out of the demolition of the Babri Mosque in India. Hafiz Hussain Ahmad of the Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Islam-Fazlur Rahman group condemned the demolition of the Babri Mosque and said the tragedy reflects the anti-Islam thinking of the extremist Hindus.

Basharat Elahi of the Islami Jamhoori Ittehad described the tragedy as aggression against the Muslim world and said it is the collective responsibility of the Muslim world to put an end to such acts. Pakhtoonkhiwa Milli Awami Party's Abdur Rahim Mandokhel described the demolition of the Babri Mosque as an abominable act of the Hindu zealots and condemned the provocative reaction of certain elements inside Pakistan to this tragedy. He underlined the need for forging a national consensus on this major issue.

UAE Deportation Issue 'Reflects Badly' on Ties

BK2612004092 Islamabad THE NATION in English 23 Dec 92 p 6

[Editorial: "More deportations"]

[Text] When the UAE [United Arab Emirates] government deported the first batch of Pakistanis a few days ago, our Foreign Office [FO] went out of its way to deny the true facts of the story and said the Pakistanis were being expelled not because they had participated in a protest demonstration against the demolition of the Babri Masjid, but because they were illegal entrants. Finally, forced by the circumstance of deportees' continued disembarkation at Karachi, it has now confirmed some 1,300 Pakistanis have already been thrown out of the UAE while another 1,014 are awaiting deportation—not all of them for residing illegally in the Emirates. And yet, according to a FO spokesman, this country's government has no intention of sending a delegation to the UAE to investigate the matter. In fact, if some Press reports are to be believed, it is actually the other side which, adding insult to injury, has refused to see any such delegation.

This whole episode reflects badly on the special relationship that the people of this country have long believed they have with their Muslim brethren in the Arab world. No decent Pakistani will want to condone the acts of violence that Pakistani protesters in Al-Ayn are alleged to have committed against non-Muslims and their property. But what needed to be given a sympathetic consideration was the fact that the majority of these people had little or no formal education and hence perhaps were not even aware of the fact that the UAE government may have condemned the mosque destruction but, under no circumstances, would it allow foreigners to sow the seeds of protest politics on its land. As it is the Pakistani public is deeply disturbed over the maltreatment of its compatriots in the UAE. The Emirates' refusal to let in a Pakistani delegation, if true, also constitutes a serious affront to the people of this country. In a situation like this, instead of our FO spokesman telling us that the large-scale humiliating deportations of Pakistanis will not affect our relations with the UAE, the government would be well-advised to convey Pakistani people's unhappiness over the issue to the government of the UAE.

Chinese Parliamentary Delegation Arrives

BK2912091692 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Text] A seven-member Chinese parliamentary delegation has arrived in Islamabad on a week-long visit to Pakistan. The delegation leader, (Leng Qihai), said his team will exchange views with Pakistani officials on the prospects of bilateral cooperation in the fields of technical education, agriculture, establishment of industries in rural areas, and economic spheres.

Sharif Commissions Mine Hunter, Visits Plant

BK2912145692 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has underlined the need for peace and stability in the region and said all issues confronting our region should be settled through negotiations. The prime minister was addressing the induction ceremony of the newly acquired mine hunter PNS Munsif at the Karachi Naval Dockyard today. On arrival at the Pakistan Naval Dockyard the prime minister was presented a 21-gun salute. The prime minister inspected the guard of honor.

Addressing the ceremony, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said Pakistan has no offensive designs against anyone and all issues confronting the region should be settled through negotiations. He said the geo-political environment in the region requires that Pakistan should not lower its guard. He said the Government stands committed to equipping the armed forces with the best weapons available commensurate with our defense needs. There is a continuing need to enhance Pakistan navy's capability to fulfill its assigned role to safeguard the sea frontiers of the country. Pakistan fully realizes that complete freedom of trade by sea must be ensured to keep the economic engine of the country going.

The chief of the naval staff, Admiral Syed Khan, said with the addition of two more mine counter measure vessels in future, Pakistan shall have the capability to ensure that approaches to our ports are clear of mines.

The prime minister then went on board PNS Munsif and inspected the ship. Sindh Governor, chief minister and some federal ministers were also present on the occasion.

Later, the prime minister visited the nuclear power plant on the occasion of completion of 20 years of its operations. Addressing the scientists and engineers of the plant, the prime minister said acquisition of nuclear technology for development purposes is Pakistan's basic right as is being done by other nations. The prime minister reiterated that Pakistan's nuclear program is entirely peaceful and there should be no misgivings in this regard. Energy is the key element in the entire development process, but the country is badly deficit in this vital sector. Pakistan, he said, is left with no alternative except to develop its nuclear energy which is

economically competitive and environmentally acceptable. He congratulated the efforts and role of scientists, engineers and technicians of KANUPP [Karachi Nuclear Power Plant] for operating the plant successfully.

Earlier, the chairman of Pakistan's Atomic Energy Commission, Dr. Ashfaq Ahmed, said the commission has chalked out a program to ensure safe functioning of the plant for many years. The prime minister went round various sections of the plant. The Sindh chief minister, Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah, Federal Ministers Syed Ghous Ali Shah and Mir Hazar Khan Bijarani were also present on the occasion.

Daily Urges Halt to Politics of Vengeance

BK2912144192 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
29 Dec 92 p 4

[Editorial: "Time to call a halt to politics of vengeance"]

[Text] Leader of the Opposition Ms Benazir Bhutto delivered herself of 90 minutes of blistering denunciation of the government headed by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. She, having done that and the nation having heard it, all that remained to be said is that she alone could have been satisfied with that boiling lava of words. The government is the product of massive rigging, it is responsible for the Rs [rupees] 17 billion lost in the Co-operative scandal in Punjab, it has failed to improve the equation with the United States and Japan, hasn't done a thing about Afghanistan and Kashmir, couldn't stay the hands of the fanatics who demolished the Babri mosque, created the controversy about ID cards, rules by terror, repression and blackmail, continues to make a fraudulent mess of privatisation and deregulation of the economy, has no clue about international affairs, and finally, is being deserted by its original political supporters and associates while the Opposition is determined to rescue the country by Long March after Long March. To take 90 minutes to say that was by itself a feat of parliamentary skill. Let us not forget that this speech was in aid of the Presidential address to the joint session of the Senate and National Assembly on December 22. If the President was rambling without touching the hard facts of the state of the nation, the Leader of the Opposition confined herself to what added up to no more than the lament of one unfairly deprived of power. What she might have done, or would do if returned to power she did not deign to divulge. Granted the government has made mistake after mistake and some very egregious ones. Granted it is riddled with flaws, in these circumstances one would expect the Leader of the Opposition to tell the government and the people how these wrongs can be righted, how the damage can be repaired, how the mistakes already committed are not to be repeated. Ms Bhutto left the nation wondering why she did not care to come up with her prescription of the nostrums needed to put the country on the right path and on the march. Her threat of Long March after Long March reminds one of the boy who called wolf. The

repetitive inanity of Ms Bhutto's address was a disappointment. And that's being kind to her.

However lacklustre Ms Bhutto's address, there is no denying that it contained such a great deal of damaging truth that the government would be foolish if it did not take serious note of the pernicious flaws pinpointed. How unwise the government can be was apparent almost instantly. To have chosen the son of Rawalpindi to lead the assault on the Leader of the Opposition was an exquisite piece of stupidity. And Sheikh Rashid was his unbearably loud-mouthed, slangy self. It is not the stark rustiness of his style that is so disagreeable as his complete lack of grace. What Ms Benazir Bhutto had said was, according to the wrestling champion of Rawalpindi, "a pack of lies." Given that he is capable of worse behaviour outside, this was the worst possible permissible inside the House. The Speaker must have been indulgent to a fault to let that expression go on record because it is perilously close to being unparliamentary. And it is abysmal bad manners to accuse an honourable member, and the Leader of the Opposition at that, of telling "a pack of lies". With that unlovely preface, Sheikh Rashid proceeded to unload himself of some statistics which are questionable, if not fabrications unfit for public consumption. Where Sheikh Rashid was intolerably coarse was his onslaught on the late Mr Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. He was not only out of context but very nearly out of his mind to have taken on a dead man, revered by the vast majority of the people of this country. This was only a proclamation of his own political illiteracy. If Sheikh Rashid must be seen, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif would be better advised to ensure that he is not heard all that often.

The most depressing part of the Presidential address and the response from the Leader of the Opposition is that together these two events fail to clear the way for any significant movement in the proper direction. The positions on both sides remain frozen. It is not good for the government which direly needs to enhance its credibility, not only at home but more importantly, at the international level. This much should be glaringly obvious to Premier Nawaz Sharif, as well as President Ghulam Ishaq Khan. Pakistan needs to burnish its image abroad and a running and wasteful battle between the incumbent government and the joint opposition is the surest way to scare the foreign investor. What Mr Nawaz Sharif needs, if he means to make his programme for economic development a success, is a climate conducive to foreign investment. Engaging in schoolboyish skirmishes with the opposition on points of petty vanity is exactly what he ought to shun as lethal poison. From now on, it is the Prime Minister (and not the least the President) who should be on trial. These two have it in their power to restore political sanity and put the country on the rails of progress. This cannot happen without a sincere and open-hearted truce. The first step in that direction is release of all political prisoners and a firm halt to political vendetta.

Sri Lanka**Premadasa: Presidential Election in Dec 1994**

BK3012122492 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] The next presidential election will be held in December 1994. Addressing a meeting at Rambukkella yesterday after opening a garment factory, President Ranasinghe Premadasa said that according to the Constitution, the next presidential election was due in 1994 and the government would proceed with its program of work until then. There was a very weak opposition at present and leader of the opposition Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike was also sick; therefore, the president said, he would give them two years time to reorganize the opposition and for her to recover from her illness. She can even go abroad and come back fit to face the election. The president pointed out that the opposition has time till 1994 to pick a common candidate (?contesting) and they can make use of the ten traitors [as heard] who were expelled from the UNP [United National Party]. Foreign political analysts had said that the time was ripe for the UNP to hold presidential elections predicting that the UNP would secure 63 percent of the total polls. He was confident that after completing the government's program of work up to 1994, the UNP would even get around 70 percent of the total polls. He recalled that U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt twice emerged victorious by facing elections from a wheelchair. Mr. Premadasa

said that he would wish to boost Mrs. Bandaranaike's morale by reminding that age was no barrier to contest elections.

Senior Official Among Six Killed in Mine Blast

BK2612111092 Hong Kong AFP in English 0918 GMT 26 Dec 92

[Text] Colombo, Dec 26 (AFP)—Suspected Tamil guerrillas Saturday [26 December] blew up a jeep, killing six civilians including a senior government official in eastern Sri Lanka, a military spokesman here said.

He said guerrillas from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) were believed to have set off a mine in the Valaichchenai area, blowing up the Indian-made Maruti jeep and the six people travelling in it.

One of the victims has been identified as Mohammed Osman, a Muslim and the assistant government agent for Valaichchenai, the spokesman said, adding that troops were rushed to the area to prevent clashes between Muslims and Tamils.

Muslims and Tamils, both from minority ethnic groups in Sri Lanka, have frequently clashed in the multi-ethnic east over LTTE killings of Muslim villagers.

Saturday's violence came nearly 48 hours after LTTE guerrillas wiped out 42 soldiers in northeast Sri Lanka. The military had reported a lull in violence on Friday.